BILL B

LLS NO. 00-0280.01 Jennifer Gilroy SENATE BILL

BY SENATORS Pascoe, Linkhart, and Wham;
also REPRESENTATIVES S. Williams, Alexander, Hagedorn, Hefley, and Tupa.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

Bill Summary

"Colorado Preschool Program"

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Child Care Interim Committee. Increases the number of children who may participate in the Colorado preschool program by 1,000 children per year for 5 years, beginning in budget year 2000-01. Authorizes the use of 2 positions by one child to allow that child to attend preschool for a full day. Eliminates the requirement that children participating in the Colorado preschool program be a certain age.

Makes an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 22-28-104 (1) (a) and (2) (d), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended, and the said 22-28-104 (2) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW PARAGRAPHS, to read:

22-28-104. Establishment of public preschool programs. (1) There is hereby established a state preschool program, which shall be

implemented in school districts beginning in January of 1989. The purposes of the program are:

(a) To serve ~~four-year- and five-year-old~~ children who lack overall learning readiness due to significant family risk factors, who are in need of language development, or who are receiving services from the state department of human services pursuant to article 5 of title 26, C.R.S., as neglected or dependent children and who would benefit from participation in the state preschool program;

(2) In recognition of the fact that there are thousands of children in Colorado not presently being served who would benefit from the state preschool program, the number of children that may participate in the state preschool program shall be increased:

(d) (I) To not more than 8,850 in the 1998-99 budget year and to not more than 9,050 in the 1999-2000 budget year. ~~and budget years thereafter.~~

(II) For the 1998-99 budget year through the 2000-01 budget year, the department shall allow school districts to apply to the department for authorization to serve no more than five hundred eligible children through a full-day kindergarten component of the district's preschool program. The department, using established criteria, shall select school districts to participate in such full-day kindergarten programs until the total number of full-day kindergarten positions applied for has been filled or the limitation of five-hundred children has been reached, whichever event occurs first.

(e) TO NOT MORE THAN 10,050 IN THE 2000-01 BUDGET YEAR;

(f) TO NOT MORE THAN 11,050 IN THE 2001-02 BUDGET YEAR;

(g) TO NOT MORE THAN 12,050 IN THE 2002-03 BUDGET YEAR;

(h) TO NOT MORE THAN 13,050 IN THE 2003-04 BUDGET YEAR;

(i) TO NOT MORE THAN 14,050 IN THE 2004-05 BUDGET YEAR AND BUDGET YEARS THEREAFTER.

SECTION 2. 22-28-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

22-28-104. Establishment of public preschool programs. (3.5) ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALLOW A SINGLE CHILD TO ENROLL IN THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM USING TWO POSITIONS TO ALLOW THAT CHILD TO ATTEND A FULL DAY OF PRESCHOOL.

SECTION 3. Appropriation. In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of education, public school finance, total program, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, the sum of _____ dollars ($_____), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.