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Chairman:
Public Health Care &
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Member:
Health, Insurance, &
Environment Committee

COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
DENVER
80203

To: Legislative Council
Requested by: Dianne Primavera
Re: Request for interim study committee regarding the Treatment of Problem Gambling
Date: April 22, 2014

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study the provision of gambling addiction counseling services to Colorado residents during the interim between the 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Problem Gambling Interim Study Committee."

The policy issues to be studied are:

- a. The need for and the provision of gambling addiction counseling services to Colorado residents pursuant to section 12-47.1-1601, C.R.S.
- b. Data identifying the scope and breadth of the problem and make specific recommendations about:
 - i. the appropriate level of funding that should be allocated to the gambling addiction account and appropriate sources of such additional funding;
 - ii. whether the department should enter into an agreement with a contractor to facilitate the administration of the grant program;
 - iii. whether, and to what extent, grants should be awarded to local and regional behavioral health organizations and community mental health centers; and
 - iv. ways to ensure that gambling addiction counseling services are available to Colorado residents statewide.
- c. Analysis and breakdown of total gaming impact revenues and how they are distributed and spent.

- d. Assessments of:
- i. the amount of money required to meet the need for counseling that is determined to exist;
 - ii. the prevalence of gambling addiction, including an estimate of the number of people who are addicted to gambling in Colorado and the number who could benefit from addiction counseling, and which forms of gambling contribute most to that prevalence; and
 - iii. whether the amount of grants to addiction counselors who are actively pursuing national accreditation as gambling addiction counselors should be specified by statute, and whether, in order to qualify for an accreditation grant, an addiction counselor applicant should be required to enter into a contract in which the applicant commits to either remain in Colorado and provide gambling addiction counseling services for at least two years after obtaining national accreditation or to repay the grant with statutory interest if the applicant fails to meet the two-year requirement.
- e. Issues related to the effectiveness of the grant program, including:
- i. an analysis of the availability of gambling addiction counseling services for Colorado residents statewide;
 - ii. the number of new, certified counselors who have entered the field as a result of the grant program;
 - iii. the number of clients served;
 - iv. the geographic location of clients who were served;
 - v. the effectiveness of the services provided;
 - vi. a detailed analysis of the overall effectiveness of the grant program; and
 - vii. any recommendations for statutory or regulatory modifications to the program.

The interim study committee would need to meet up to six times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of six members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- Three members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President of the Senate, and one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- Three members of the House of Representatives, with two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

Nonlegislative members will have a role in the interim study committee.

- Briefly explain why their participation is needed: These agencies and entities are important to the overall conversation and helping to analyze the needs in this issue area.

- Specify what their role and responsibilities will be: To participate in the gathering of information, discussion of relevant issues surrounding the objective of the interim committee, and helping to determine the program needs and set goals and objectives for moving forward.
- Identify who the non-legislative members will be:
 - the Executive Director of the Department of Public Health and Environment or his or her designee;
 - the Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs or his or her designee;
 - the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;
 - the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue or his or her designee;
 - the Chair of the Colorado Gaming Commission or the his or her designee;
 - the vendor selected by the Department of Human Services to assist the department with the addiction counseling grant program established in section 12-47.1-1601, C.R.S.; and,
 - a representative of the Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado, as appointed by the Speaker of the House.
- Specify how many nonlegislative members are necessary: Seven.
(Unless otherwise specified, Joint Rule 24A (f) states that if any interim study committee includes nonlegislative members, a majority vote of the legislative members shall be required to recommend legislation.)

A task force is not necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above.

The interim study committee will need five bills to address the issues it studies.

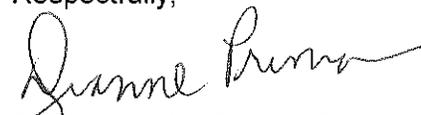
Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The Department of Public Health & Environment, Department of Human Services, Department of Local Affairs, Department of Revenue, and Colorado Gaming Commission may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

The interim study committee would like to possibly conduct one meeting outside of the Denver metropolitan area. The committee may choose to have one meeting outside the Denver area in order to visit a casino, counselor training facility, or treatment facility for the purpose of making needed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Representative Dianne Primavera