



State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

(Please Note: Requests will become public upon final approval of the requesting legislator. Working drafts are considered work product. It is assumed the Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will provide staff support for any approved interim committees and legislative members will receive per diem and reimbursement of expenses. Prior to approval, the Legislative Council may modify the nature and scope of the interim study committee requested. Approved interim study committees are subject to Joint Rule 24A, Interim Committee Requirements – Voting Requirements – Electronic Participation.)

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Senator Todd
With support of: Senator(s) Kefalas

Re: Request for staffing for the Early Childhood and School Readiness
Legislative Commission

Date: 04/10/2015

The Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission was created in statute in 2013 (Section 26-6.5-203, C.R.S.). The commission is required to hold at least **4 meetings** annually, and is charged with studying issues concerning early childhood and school readiness, including but not limited to health care, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning.

The commission consists of **6 members** of the General Assembly:

- 3 members of the Senate; and
- 3 members of the House of Representatives.

The President of the Senate appoints 2 members, 1 of whom serves on the Senate Education Committee and 1 of whom serves on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The minority leader of the Senate appoints 1 member who also serves on the Senate Education Committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints 2 members, 1 of whom serves on the House Education Committee and 1 of whom serves on the House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee. The minority leader of the House of Representatives appoints 1 member who also serves on the House Education Committee. The chair and

vice-chair alternate annually between the two houses. In 2014, the commission was chaired by Representative Pettersen. In 2015, the chair will be appointed by the President of the Senate and the vice-chair will be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The commission is repealed effective July 1, 2018.

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

Although the commission already exists in statute, there is no provision for staffing. Therefore, I hereby request staffing provided by Legislative Council Staff during the interim between the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions.

The commission will need **5 bills** to address the issues it studies.

Nonlegislative members will not have a role in the interim study committee, nor is a task force necessary to assist the commission in studying the scope of policy issues. The following agencies may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and Colorado Department of Higher Education.

In addition, please see the attached letter (Attachment A) from the Early Childhood Leadership Commission focusing on the relationship between the Early Childhood Leadership Commission and the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Early Childhood Leadership Commission
Lt. Governor Garcia, Co-Chair
Barbara Grogan, Co-Chair
Anna Jo Haynes, Co-Chair

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March 30, 2015

Dear Senate President Cadman and House Speaker Hulinghorst,

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) was reauthorized by legislation in 2013 as the entity charged to be the trusted and proactive champion for quality, outcome-focused early childhood programs and services for pregnant women and children birth to age eight in Colorado. This high-level, interagency, cross-sector, public-private commission accelerates and sustains Colorado's commitment to improve outcomes for young children by promoting a shared vision and strategic direction for an aligned system of services and supports.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 26-6.5-203 (2)(b), the Early Childhood School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC) is required to consult with the ECLC on matters related to early childhood and school readiness policy. This statute compliments the ECLC's priority, pursuant to C.R.S. 26-6.2-104, to identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children. Out of a commitment to promote robust policy, the ECSRLC and ECLC will continue to meet and collaborate on early childhood and school readiness policy throughout the 2015 interim session.

While leveraging the subject matter expertise of the ECLC and the opportunity for the ECSRLC to shepherd new policy and make recommendations to improve current policy, the ECLC plans to engage the ECSRLC in a discussion to:

- Ensure the implementation of the 2015 Early Childhood Colorado Framework which is scheduled to be released in July 2015
- Review recommendations from the ECLC Prenatal to Age Three Subcommittee
- Analyze options to sustain Colorado Shines which is the new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that includes the Professional Development Information System (PDIS)
- Engage and align efforts with the business community which includes a better understanding of the economic impact of early childhood

We look forward to the opportunity to accelerate progress and further strengthen the early childhood system to better serve young children and families in Colorado.

On behalf of the ECLC,

Anna Jo Haynes
ECLC Co-Chair