



State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Senator Kefalas

Re: Request for interim study committee regarding the epidemic and prevention of prescription drug overdose by children and adults in Colorado

Date: 04/15/2016

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 epidemic and prevention of prescription drug pilfering, abuse, and overdose by children and adults in Colorado during the interim between the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Prescription Pilfering Prevention Interim Study Committee."

The policy issues to be studied are:

1. The epidemic of prescription drug pilfering, abuse, and overdose by children and adults in Colorado.
2. The current laws pertaining to child resistant drug packaging.
3. The effects of dispensing all schedule II to IV controlled substances (including opioid analgesics as a separate category) (collectively the "studied drugs") in locking prescription vials (LPVs), as opposed to current child-resistant vials, with respect to:
 - a. Patient awareness of the hazards, and addictiveness, of the studied drugs, including patient awareness specifically among those patients that are either parents or grandparents or guardians, with teens either living in or frequently visiting the home;
 - b. Awareness of the hazards and addictiveness of the studied drugs, among teens in the households in which patients live;
 - c. Patient and patient household members' perception of the effectiveness of LPVs in preventing pilfering of medications by users other than the patient;

- d. Patient and patient household members' perceptions of whether or not the physical profile of the packaging itself, as opposed to the conventional child-resistant packaging, differentiates the accompanying medication as potentially hazardous or addictive; and
- e. Pharmacists' perceptions of any improvement in patient education opportunities afforded them as health care professionals, and separately their perceptions of any improvement in patient awareness of medication risks.

The results of such interim study would be:

1. Mandate LPV dispensing of controlled substances by: (a) licensed pharmacies in the state; and (b) mail order pharmacies serving patients in the state; or
2. Mandate that a multiyear, and minimum three-year, statewide pilot program of LPV dispensing of controlled substances, with mandatory participation by the state's licensed pharmacies and other dispensing entities, be undertaken with the objective of measuring the impact of LPV dispensing on certain public health outcomes, including without limitation, admissions into substance abuse programs, emergency room admissions, overdose deaths, hospital discharges involving heroin or opioids, and other measurements.

The interim study committee would need to meet 4 times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of 6 members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- 3 members of the Senate, with 1 appointed by the President of the Senate, 1 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, and 1 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- 3 members of the House of Representatives, with 1 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and 1 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The President of the Senate will appoint the Chair of the committee and the Speaker of the House of Representatives will appoint the Vice-Chair of the committee.

The appointments must be made by June 15, 2016.

The interim study committee will need 3 bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety, and the Attorney General's Office may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.