

First Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 07-0059.01 Jane Ritter

HOUSE BILL 07-1062

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Solano, and Todd

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Williams,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY
102 CHILDHOOD COUNCILS.

Bill Summary

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

Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission. Allows counties to apply for local early childhood council designation and receive funds to address local needs and conditions. Repeals the pilot program for community consolidated child care services ("pilot program"). Incorporates existing pilot programs and early childhood councils or partnerships into a new and expanded integrated statewide system of early childhood councils ("council"). Directs the various

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

participating counties to designate a convening entity for each council, and requires the convening entity to approve council members. Mandates an application process to receive designation as a council. Outlines the essential community representation on a council, as well as suggested participation. Sets forth the duties of the councils, including but not limited to increasing and sustaining the quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability of early childhood services for children 5 years of age or younger and their parents. Outlines the application process for funding. Creates the early childhood council advisory team, and outlines its functions.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 26-6.5-101, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 **26-6.5-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 hereby finds and declares that there is a critical need to increase ~~full-year,~~
6 ~~full-day child care~~ services for YOUNG children ~~whose parents~~ AND THEIR
7 FAMILIES, INCLUDING THOSE FAMILIES WITH MEMBERS WHO are entering
8 the workforce due to Colorado's reform of the welfare system,
9 ~~transitioning~~ MAKING THE TRANSITION off OF welfare, or ~~in need of~~
10 NEEDING child care assistance to avoid the welfare system. THE
11 STATEWIDE NEED INCLUDES INCREASING AND SUSTAINING THE QUALITY,
12 ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF SERVICES FOR
13 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO HELP PARENTS RAISE THEIR CHILDREN
14 TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL, AT WORK, AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

15 (2) Research demonstrates that there are positive outcomes for
16 YOUNG children ~~in low-income~~ AND THEIR families who receive quality,
17 INTEGRATED child care AND RELATED services in their early, preschool
18 years, DELIVERED THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD
19 SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES QUALITY CARE AND EDUCATION, FAMILY
20 SUPPORT, HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

1 (3) Providers of half-day preschool and full-day child care
2 services have to overcome barriers and inflexible requirements of the
3 various sources of funding in order to design and implement programs
4 that are more responsive to the needs of working families.

5 (4) ~~Consolidation of these~~ CONSIDERATION OF various STATE AND
6 FEDERAL FUNDING sources ~~of funding from both state and federal sources~~
7 would allow for an integrated delivery system of quality programs for
8 YOUNG children ~~in low-income~~ AND THEIR families in Colorado's
9 communities.

10 (5) AN INTEGRATED DELIVERY SYSTEM WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE
11 THE ABILITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY THE BEST PRACTICES
12 RELATIVE TO INCREASING AND SUSTAINING QUALITY AND TO MEETING THE
13 DIVERSE NEEDS OF FAMILIES SEEKING CHILD CARE AND OTHER EARLY
14 CHILDHOOD SERVICES.

15 (6) DISTINCTLY LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS REQUIRE THAT THE
16 STATE DESIGN AND INTEGRATE A SYSTEM THAT HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO
17 ADAPT TO THOSE LOCAL NEEDS.

18 ~~(5)~~ (7) It is therefore in the state's best interest to establish a ~~pilot~~
19 ~~program for community consolidated child care services~~ COMPREHENSIVE
20 SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN THE
21 AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND QUALITY OF EARLY
22 CHILDHOOD SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, as provided in this article.

23 **SECTION 2.** Article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes,
24 is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

25 **26-6.5-101.5. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE
26 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

27 (1) "ADVISORY TEAM" MEANS THE COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD

1 COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-105.

2 (2) "COUNCIL" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL IDENTIFIED
3 OR ESTABLISHED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE
4 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND
5 ULTIMATELY IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF EARLY
6 CHILDHOOD SERVICES TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL READINESS OF CHILDREN
7 FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER IN THE COMMUNITY. A COUNCIL MAY BE
8 AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COUNCIL SO LONG AS NO
9 MORE THAN ONE COUNCIL EXISTS IN A GIVEN SERVICE AREA.

10 (3) "COUNTY DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT
11 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

12 (4) "CSAP" MEANS THE COLORADO STUDENT ASSESSMENT
13 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-409, C.R.S.

14 (5) "EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDER" OR "EARLY CARE
15 AND EDUCATION FACILITY" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, PROVIDER, OR
16 FACILITY THAT:

17 (a) IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE
18 OR THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
19 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 28 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.; AND

20 (b) PARTICIPATES IN LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS.

21 (6) "EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COUNCIL" MEANS
22 A COUNCIL THAT REPRESENTS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS
23 IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE
24 STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-106. AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE
25 AND EDUCATION COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY
26 IMPROVEMENT FUNDING TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS
27 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-106 (3) TO ENHANCE THE SCHOOL

1 READINESS OF CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

2 (7) "ELIGIBLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC
3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT:

4 (a) (I) FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
5 SUBMISSION OF THE COUNCIL'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING PURSUANT TO
6 SECTION 26-6.5-106, RECEIVES AN OVERALL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
7 RATING OF "LOW" OR "UNSATISFACTORY", PURSUANT TO SECTION
8 22-7-604, C.R.S.; OR

9 (II) FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SUBMISSION
10 OF THE COUNCIL'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING PURSUANT TO SECTION
11 26-6.5-106, RECEIVES AN ACADEMIC GROWTH OF STUDENTS RATING OF
12 "DECLINE" OR "SIGNIFICANT DECLINE", AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
13 22-7-604, C.R.S., AND, FOR THE SAME SCHOOL YEAR, RECEIVES AN
14 OVERALL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RATING OF "AVERAGE", PURSUANT TO
15 SECTION 22-7-604, C.R.S.; AND

16 (b) AS OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE COUNCIL APPLIES FOR FUNDING
17 THROUGH THE PROGRAM, IS RECEIVING MONEYS PURSUANT TO TITLE I OF
18 THE FEDERAL "ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965",
19 20 U.S.C. SEC. 6301 ET SEQ.

20 (8) "PILOT SITE AGENCY" MEANS A COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED
21 CHILD CARE SERVICES PILOT SITE AGENCY AS IT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE
22 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

23 (9) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
24 AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION
25 26-1-107.

26 (10) "STATE DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
27 HUMAN SERVICES.

1 **SECTION 3. Repeal.** 26-6.5-102, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
2 repealed as follows:

3 **26-6.5-102. Pilot program established.** ~~There is hereby~~
4 ~~established a pilot program for community consolidated child care~~
5 ~~services that shall be implemented and monitored by the state department~~
6 ~~of human services, with input, cooperation, and support services from the~~
7 ~~state department of education.~~

8 **SECTION 4.** 26-6.5-103, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
9 REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

10 **26-6.5-103. Early childhood councils - established - rules.**

11 (1) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A STATEWIDE INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF
12 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN THE
13 AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND QUALITY OF EARLY
14 CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE
15 STATE. THE COUNCILS SHALL HAVE CONSISTENT FUNCTION AND
16 STRUCTURE STATEWIDE AND SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE STATE
17 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
18 ADVISORY TEAM, WITH INPUT, COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES
19 FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND
20 ENVIRONMENT.

21 (2) THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS
22 SHALL CONSIST OF THE SEVENTEEN PILOT SITE AGENCIES AND OTHER
23 EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS OR PARTNERSHIPS, RENAMED
24 THROUGH THIS ARTICLE AS "EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS", AND OF NEW
25 COUNCILS DESIGNATED AND CONVENED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE,
26 SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

27 (3) FOR NEW COUNCILS OR FOR EXISTING COUNCILS OR

1 PARTNERSHIPS THAT DECIDE TO RECONFIGURE UNDER THIS ARTICLE, THE
2 BOARD OR BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL DESIGNATE A
3 CONVENING ENTITY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO A LOCAL
4 RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY, A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
5 SERVICES OR SOCIAL SERVICES, A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, A DEPARTMENT
6 OF PUBLIC HEALTH, OR A COLORADO PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN
7 PROGRAM COUNCIL. THE CONVENING ENTITY MAY CONVENE A COUNCIL
8 EITHER AS PART OF A SINGLE COUNTY OR AS PART OF A MULTI-COUNTY
9 REGIONAL NETWORK.

10 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE BY RULE THE
11 CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR ESTABLISHING A SINGLE COUNCIL FOR AN AREA.

12 (5) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS REQUIRING
13 A COUNTY TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OR TO BE A PART
14 OF A MULTI-COUNTY COUNCIL.

15 **SECTION 5.** Article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes,
16 is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW
17 SECTIONS to read:

18 **26-6.5-103.3. Early childhood councils - applications - rules.**

19 (1) A NEWLY ESTABLISHED OR NEWLY IDENTIFIED COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT
20 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AN APPLICATION TO BECOME PART OF THE
21 STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. THE STATE
22 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL
23 DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE THE APPLICATION FORM AND CRITERIA AND AN
24 EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS FOR JOINING THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF
25 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN
26 COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR
27 THE PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS.

1 (2) A NEW COUNCIL SHALL DESIGNATE ON ITS APPLICATION THE
2 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 3 (a) THE INTENDED SERVICE AREA;
- 4 (b) THE COUNTIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL;
- 5 (c) PARTICIPATING MANDATORY STAKEHOLDERS;
- 6 (d) THE ENTITY THAT SHALL SERVE AS THE ORIGINAL FISCAL
7 AGENT FOR THE COUNCIL; AND
- 8 (e) THE SIGNATURES OF THE CHAIR OR CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OR
9 BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTIES INVOLVED IN THE
10 COUNCIL, THE LEGAL SIGNATORY FOR THE COUNTIES, AND THE PRESIDENT
11 OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL.

12 (3) A PILOT SITE AGENCY OR OTHER EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD
13 COUNCIL OR PARTNERSHIP SEEKING TO BE NEWLY IDENTIFIED AS A
14 COUNCIL SHALL DESIGNATE ON ITS APPLICATION A RESTATEMENT OF THE
15 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 16 (a) THE DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA;
- 17 (b) CURRENT MEMBERS;
- 18 (c) ANY ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED TO MEET THE
19 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 26-6.5-103.5;
- 20 (d) THE DESIGNATED FISCAL AGENT; AND
- 21 (e) SIGNATURES OF THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP, THE
22 FISCAL AGENT, THE CHAIR OR CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OR BOARDS OF
23 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTIES INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL,
24 AND THE PRESIDENT OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
25 INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL.

26 (4) UPON RECEIPT OF STATE FUNDING, EACH COUNCIL SHALL
27 DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT, AT A MINIMUM:

1 (a) ESTABLISHES A COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING THE
2 HIRING OF A COUNCIL DIRECTOR;

3 (b) PROVIDES THE RESULTS OF A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OR
4 UPDATES THE MOST CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS
5 CONCERNING THE CURRENT STATE OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES, EARLY
6 CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND RESOURCES, AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR
7 IMPROVEMENT. THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS SHALL BE
8 UPDATED FOR SUBMISSION WITH SUBSEQUENT COUNCIL APPLICATIONS.

9 (c) ESTABLISHES PRIORITIES FOR A STRATEGIC PLAN, DEVELOPS A
10 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN, AND CREATES AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR
11 DEVELOPING A LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM AND INFRASTRUCTURE
12 TO IMPROVE AND COORDINATE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES; AND

13 (d) ESTABLISHES A PLAN FOR EVALUATING CHILD OUTCOMES,
14 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE, AND COUNCIL PROCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS AS
15 IT RELATES TO THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN.

16 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
17 ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO DEFINE THE STANDARDS
18 FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
19 ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION SHALL BE AUTOMATIC IF THE
20 APPLICATION IS COMPLETE, THE SIGNATURES ARE IN ORDER, AND IT MEETS
21 THE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO
22 THIS SUBSECTION (5).

23 **26-6.5-103.5. Early childhood councils - membership.** (1) TO
24 THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, EACH COUNCIL SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF
25 THE VARIOUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE LOCAL
26 COMMUNITY WHO ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE WELL-BEING OF
27 CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER. THE COUNCILS SHALL

1 ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES BY OFFERING EVALUATIONS
2 IN VARIOUS AREAS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PARENT INVOLVEMENT
3 AND CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL HEALTH, SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
4 AND MENTAL HEALTH, REASONING AND LOGIC SKILLS, LANGUAGE AND
5 LITERACY, AND GROSS AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS.

6 (2) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, EACH COUNCIL, WHETHER
7 NEWLY ESTABLISHED IN A COMMUNITY OR NEWLY IDENTIFIED TO SERVE AS
8 A COUNCIL, SHALL WORK TOWARD CONSOLIDATING AND COORDINATING
9 FUNDING, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
10 FUNDING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.5-106. TOGETHER, THE COUNCILS
11 THROUGHOUT THE STATE SHALL SERVE TO CREATE A SEAMLESS SYSTEM
12 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES REPRESENTING COLLABORATION AMONG
13 THE VARIOUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE EFFECTIVE
14 DELIVERY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES TO CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF
15 AGE OR YOUNGER IN A MANNER THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS AND
16 CONDITIONS.

17 (3) (a) EACH NEW COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF MEMBERS TO BE
18 APPROVED INITIALLY BY THE CONVENING ENTITY AS DESIGNATED
19 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103. EACH INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL SHALL
20 DETERMINE SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS AND RULES FOR ROTATION OF
21 TERMS.

22 (b) EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE
23 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS FROM
24 QUALITY CARE AND EDUCATION, FAMILY SUPPORT, HEALTH, AND MENTAL
25 HEALTH PROGRAMS WHO REFLECT LOCAL NEEDS AND CULTURAL
26 DIVERSITY. EACH COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE A MINIMUM OF TEN MEMBERS
27 REPRESENTING ANY COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDER

1 GROUPS WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S SERVICE AREA:

2 (I) COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN SERVICES;

3 (II) COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS;

4 (III) SCHOOL DISTRICTS;

5 (IV) PARENTS OF CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

6 (V) CHILD CARE PROVIDERS REPRESENTING LICENSED, FOR-PROFIT

7 OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHILD CARE CENTERS, PRESCHOOLS, OR LICENSED

8 CHILD CARE HOMES;

9 (VI) CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES;

10 (VII) HEAD START GRANTEES;

11 (VIII) HEALTH DEPARTMENTS;

12 (IX) HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS;

13 (X) SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND

14 CHILDREN, AS PROVIDED FOR IN 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1786;

15 (XI) EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

16 PROGRAMS, AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW;

17 (XII) PART B AND PART C UNDER THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS

18 WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004", 42 U.S.C.

19 1400 ET. SEQ., AS AMENDED;

20 (XIII) DISTRICT PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

21 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 28 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.; AND

22 (XIV) COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS OR, IN THE EVENT

23 THAT A LOCAL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER CANNOT

24 PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

25 (c) IN ADDITION, EACH COUNCIL MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED

26 TO, REPRESENTATION FROM ANY COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING

27 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S SERVICE AREA:

- 1 (I) CHILD CARE ASSOCIATIONS;
- 2 (II) MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROFESSIONALS;
- 3 (III) SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT ORGANIZATIONS;
- 4 (IV) HEAD START PARENT COUNCILS;
- 5 (V) A CHAMBER OR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE;
- 6 (VI) LOCAL BUSINESSES;
- 7 (VII) FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE EARLY
- 8 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR CHILD CARE;
- 9 (VIII) LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS;
- 10 (IX) HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS;
- 11 (X) LIBRARIES; AND
- 12 (XI) FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS.

13 (4) EACH MEMBER OF A COUNCIL SHALL SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF
14 UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION HE OR SHE
15 REPRESENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND COLLABORATE ON THE WORK OF THE
16 COUNCIL.

17 **26-6.5-103.7. Early childhood councils - duties.** (1) EACH
18 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL HAVE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING
19 DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

20 (a) TO APPLY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING PURSUANT TO
21 SECTION 26-6.5-104;

22 (b) TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN THE QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY,
23 CAPACITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR
24 CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER AND THEIR PARENTS. TO THIS
25 END, EACH COUNCIL SHALL DEVELOP AND EXECUTE STRATEGIC PLANS TO
26 RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS.

27 (c) TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO

1 MEASURE LOCAL PROGRESS BASED ON THE NEEDS AND GOALS SET FOR
2 CHILD OUTCOMES AND FOR PROGRAM PERFORMANCE;

3 (d) TO REPORT ANNUALLY THE RESULTS OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY
4 MEASUREMENTS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1);

5 (e) TO SELECT A FISCAL AGENT TO DISBURSE FUNDS AND SERVE AS
6 THE EMPLOYER OF THE COUNCIL DIRECTOR, ONCE HIRED. THE FISCAL
7 AGENT MAY OR MAY NOT BE A COUNTY.

8 (f) TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN AS DESCRIBED
9 IN SECTION 26-6.5-103.3 (4), INCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION
10 AND REPORT; AND

11 (g) TO ACTIVELY ATTEMPT TO INFORM AND INCLUDE SMALL OR
12 UNDER-REPRESENTED EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS IN EARLY
13 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS.

14 **SECTION 6.** 26-6.5-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
15 REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

16 **26-6.5-104. Early childhood councils - waivers - rules -**
17 **funding - application.** (1) A LOCAL COUNCIL MAY REQUEST A WAIVER
18 OF ANY RULE THAT WOULD PREVENT A COUNCIL FROM IMPLEMENTING
19 COUNCIL PROJECTS. THE LOCAL COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT THE REQUEST TO
20 THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH SHALL WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH
21 THE ADVISORY TEAM IN REVIEWING THE REQUEST. THE STATE
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL GRANT WAIVERS UPON APPROVAL.

23 (2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
24 ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO DEVELOP AND
25 DISTRIBUTE TO COUNCILS THE APPLICATION FORM AND APPLICATION
26 PROCESS TO BE USED BY EACH COUNCIL SEEKING TO RECEIVE QUALITY
27 IMPROVEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING FROM THE EARLY

1 CHILDHOOD CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 26-6.5-110 AND OTHER
2 FUNDING SOURCES APPROPRIATED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES.

3 (b) APPLICATIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING FROM THE
4 EARLY CHILDHOOD CASH FUND ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 26-6.5-110 AND
5 OTHER FUNDING SOURCES APPROPRIATED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
6 SERVICES SHALL BE REVIEWED UPON RECEIPT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT,
7 IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM CREATED IN SECTION
8 26-6.5-105.

9 **SECTION 7.** 26-6.5-105, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
10 REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

11 **26-6.5-105. Early childhood council advisory team - creation**
12 **- duties.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE COLORADO EARLY
13 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM TO PROVIDE ADVICE CONCERNING
14 THE ACTIVITIES OF, AND PROVIDE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR, THE EARLY
15 CHILDHOOD COUNCILS CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103. THE
16 ADVISORY TEAM SHALL BE CONVENED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WITH
17 INPUT, COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS
18 OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.

19 (2) THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL BE COMPRISED OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS THAT MIRROR THE
21 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON LOCAL COUNCILS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
22 26-6.5-103.5, WITH A MAJORITY OF STAKEHOLDERS FROM LOCAL
23 COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE MEMBERS FROM LOCAL
24 COUNCILS SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND
25 GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING URBAN, RURAL, AND
26 SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES FROM THE FRONT RANGE, EASTERN PLAINS,
27 WESTERN SLOPE, AND MOUNTAIN COUNTIES. ADVISORY TEAM MEMBERS

1 FROM THE STATE LEVEL SHALL BE APPOINTED BIENNIALLY BY THE
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. ADVISORY TEAM
3 MEMBERS FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL SHALL BE NOMINATED BY LOCAL
4 COUNCILS TO SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS, WITH THE INITIAL SELECTION OF
5 MEMBERS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. SELECTIONS
6 FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE SEATED ADVISORY
7 TEAM. VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT OF THE ORIGINAL
8 APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM.

9 (3) THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY TEAM, IN
10 COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SHALL INCLUDE, BUT
11 NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

12 (a) DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR THE CREATION
13 OF NEW OR NEWLY IDENTIFIED COUNCILS;

14 (b) DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR COUNCIL
15 INFRASTRUCTURE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDING AS RELATED TO
16 SECTION 26-6.5-103.3 (4) (c);

17 (c) ADVISING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A
18 STATEWIDE EVALUATION OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND CHILD OUTCOMES
19 IN PHYSICAL HEALTH, SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MENTAL
20 HEALTH, LOGIC AND REASONING, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY, AND GROSS
21 AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS. THE STATEWIDE EVALUATION SHALL INTEGRATE
22 AND ANALYZE THE LOCAL COUNCIL EVALUATIONS AND SHALL
23 COORDINATE WITH EVALUATION WORK BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
24 EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.

25 (d) ADVISING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN
26 EVALUATION OF THE BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE LOCAL
27 COUNCILS, INCLUDING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE

1 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, IN
2 SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF THE COUNCILS; AND

3 (e) ADVISING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A
4 COORDINATED APPROACH FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS
5 RELATED TO DEVELOPING A LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM AND
6 INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE AND COORDINATE EARLY CHILDHOOD
7 SERVICES.

8 **SECTION 8. Repeal.** 26-6.5-106 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes,
9 is repealed as follows:

10 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement**
11 **program. (2) Definitions.** ~~As used in this section, unless the context~~
12 ~~otherwise requires:~~

13 (a) ~~Repealed.~~

14 (b) ~~"Early care and education providers" and "early care and~~
15 ~~education facilities" mean school districts, providers, or facilities:~~

16 (I) ~~That are licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 6 of this title or~~
17 ~~that participate in the Colorado preschool and kindergarten program~~
18 ~~pursuant to article 28 of title 22, C.R.S.; and~~

19 (II) ~~That participate in local community early childhood care and~~
20 ~~education councils.~~

21 (III) ~~(Deleted by amendment, L. 2005, p. 892, § 2, effective June~~
22 ~~2, 2005.)~~

23 (c) ~~"Early childhood care and education councils" means councils~~
24 ~~representative of public and private stakeholders identified or established~~
25 ~~locally in communities throughout the state pursuant to subsection (3.5)~~
26 ~~of this section for the purpose of developing and ultimately implementing~~
27 ~~a comprehensive early childhood system to ensure the school readiness~~

1 of young children in the community. "Early childhood care and education
2 councils" shall provide school-readiness quality improvement funding to
3 early care and education providers pursuant to subsection (3) of this
4 section to enhance the school readiness of children five years of age and
5 younger.

6 (d) "Eligible elementary school" means a public elementary school
7 that:

8 (I) (A) For the school year immediately preceding submission of
9 the early childhood care and education council's application for funding,
10 has an overall academic performance rating of "low" or "unsatisfactory",
11 pursuant to section 22-7-604, C.R.S.; or

12 (B) For the school year immediately preceding submission of the
13 early childhood care and education council's application for funding, has
14 been assigned a rating for academic growth of students of "decline" or
15 "significant decline", as described in section 22-7-604, C.R.S., and, for
16 the same school year, has an overall academic performance rating of
17 "average", pursuant to section 22-7-604, C.R.S.; and

18 (H) As of the date on which the early childhood care and
19 education council applies for funding through the program, is receiving
20 moneys pursuant to Title I of the federal "Elementary and Secondary
21 Education Act of 1965", 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq.

22 (e) "Pilot site agencies" means the community consolidated child
23 care pilot site agencies established pursuant to section 26-6.5-103.

24 (f) "Program" means the school-readiness quality improvement
25 program created pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

26 **SECTION 9.** 26-6.5-106 (3) and (5) (a) (IV), Colorado Revised
27 Statutes, are amended to read:

1 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program.**

2 **(3) School-readiness quality improvement program created.** On and
3 after January 1, 2003, and continuing thereafter subject to sufficient and
4 available federal funding, there is hereby created the school-readiness
5 quality improvement program, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE
6 "PROGRAM", pursuant to which the state department of human services
7 shall award three years of school-readiness quality improvement funding
8 to eligible early childhood care and education councils identified or
9 established throughout the state pursuant to subsection (3.5) of this
10 section. School-readiness quality improvement funding shall be awarded
11 to improve the school-readiness of children five years of age and younger
12 who are enrolled in early care and education facilities. School-readiness
13 quality improvement funding shall be awarded to eligible early childhood
14 care and education councils based upon allocations made at the discretion
15 of the state department and subject to available federal funding. Nothing
16 in this section or in any rules promulgated pursuant to this section shall
17 be interpreted to create a legal entitlement in any early childhood care and
18 education council to school-readiness quality improvement funding
19 pursuant to the program. Moneys awarded through the program shall be
20 used to improve the school readiness of children, five years of age and
21 younger, cared for at such facilities, who ultimately attend eligible
22 elementary schools.

23 **(5) School-readiness quality rating system.** The state early
24 childhood and school-readiness commission created pursuant to section
25 26-6-304 shall adopt a voluntary school-readiness quality rating system.
26 Such rating system shall measure the level of preparedness of and quality
27 of services provided by an early care and education provider to prepare

1 children to enter elementary school. The school-readiness quality rating
2 system shall:

3 (a) Measure such elements of quality of an early care and
4 education facility as:

5 (IV) Provider training and education, including recognized
6 credentials through the state department's voluntary credentialing system
7 developed pursuant to section ~~26-6.5-103 (8)~~ 26-6.5-107; and

8 **SECTION 10.** Article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes,
9 is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW
10 SECTIONS to read:

11 **26-6.5-107. Voluntary child care credentialing system - rules.**

12 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A STATEWIDE
13 VOLUNTARY CHILD CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM THAT RECOGNIZES THE
14 TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF PERSONS PROVIDING
15 EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION. THE USE OF THE VOLUNTARY
16 CHILD CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE
17 LIMITED TO, THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. THE VOLUNTARY CHILD
18 CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM SHALL BE A MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF
19 GRADUATED CREDENTIALS THAT REFLECTS THE INCREASED TRAINING,
20 EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND COMPETENCIES OF PERSONS
21 WORKING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE
22 VARIOUS COUNCILS. THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE SUCH RULES
23 AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
24 VOLUNTARY CHILD CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM.

25 **26-6.5-108. Evaluation.** (1) NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2010,
26 THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM,
27 SHALL, THROUGH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS, CONTRACT WITH

1 A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO PREPARE AN INDEPENDENT
2 EVALUATION OF THE SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS TO
3 DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM IN SERVING CHILDREN
4 AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE EVALUATION SHALL BE
5 COMPLETED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2010, AND SHALL BE REPEATED
6 EVERY THREE YEARS THEREAFTER.

7 (2) THE EVALUATION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

8 (a) AN AGGREGATE EVALUATION OF LOCAL EVALUATION PLAN
9 DATA AS INTEGRATED AND ANALYZED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN
10 COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, INCLUDING AN EVALUATION
11 OF THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF CHILD OUTCOMES, PROGRAM
12 PERFORMANCE, AND COUNCIL PROCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS;

13 (b) AN EVALUATION OF STATE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE,
14 INCLUDING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE
15 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, IN MEETING
16 THE NEEDS OF THE COUNCILS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-105 (3) (d);

17 (c) AN EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF COMBINING THE
18 FUNDING SOURCES AVAILABLE UNDER THIS ARTICLE;

19 (d) AN EVALUATION OF THE BARRIERS TO DELIVERY OF QUALITY
20 EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES;

21 (e) AN EVALUATION OF THE MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR
22 OVERSEEING THE DELIVERY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES UNDER A
23 STATEWIDE SYSTEM;

24 (f) AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF WAIVERS ISSUED PURSUANT
25 TO SECTION 26-6.5-104;

26 (g) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES TO STATEWIDE
27 PRACTICES SET FORTH IN THE RULES OF THE STATE BOARD BASED UPON

1 THE RESULTS OBSERVED IN COUNCILS WHERE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE IS
2 INTEGRATED WITH EDUCATION; AND

3 (h) AN EVALUATION OF THE MEASURABLE IMPACT OF INTEGRATION
4 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE WITH EDUCATION ON THE OVERALL QUALITY
5 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN COLORADO.

6 **26-6.5-109. Annual conference.** ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2008,
7 AND ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE
8 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL
9 CONDUCT AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE COUNCILS AND THE EARLY
10 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM THAT SHALL INCLUDE BUT NEED
11 NOT BE LIMITED TO INFORMATION SHARING, COORDINATION, PLANNING,
12 AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

13 **26-6.5-110. Early childhood cash fund - creation.** (1) THERE
14 IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CASH
15 FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS THE "FUND", THAT SHALL CONSIST
16 OF SUCH MONEYS AS MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CREDITED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO
18 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. THE MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE
19 SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE
20 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
21 THIS ARTICLE.

22 (2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT
23 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SOURCES FOR
24 THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE. ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FUNDS
25 RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS SHALL BE
26 TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE SAME
27 TO THE FUND. THE MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL

1 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT
2 FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE.

4 (3) ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES
5 OF THIS ARTICLE MAY BE INVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER AS
6 PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE
7 INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED
8 TO THE FUND.

9 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND UP TO, BUT NOT
10 EXCEEDING, FIVE PERCENT OF THE MONEYS ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED
11 FROM THE FUND TO OFFSET THE COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS
12 ARTICLE.

13 (5) ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING
14 IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND
15 AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR
16 ANOTHER FUND.

17 (6) THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO A
18 SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ANY COUNCIL TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN
19 THE QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF EARLY
20 CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.

21 **SECTION 11.** 26-6-304 (1) (b) (II), Colorado Revised Statutes,
22 is amended to read:

23 **26-6-304. Early childhood and school readiness commission -**
24 **created.** (1) (b) The governor shall appoint nine members of the
25 commission, no more than five of whom shall be from the same political
26 party, who shall be representative of the cultural and geographic diversity
27 of the state and at least one of whom shall have experience working with

1 children with disabilities. The members of the commission appointed by
2 the governor shall also be representative of the following interests,
3 organizations, state agencies, and boards:

4 (II) ~~The community consolidated child care services pilot program~~
5 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS established pursuant to article 6.5 of this
6 title;

7 **SECTION 12.** 26-6.5-104.5, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read:

9 **26-6.5-104.5. Quality evaluation and improvement of early**
10 **childhood care and education programs - use of Colorado works**
11 **moneys.** Counties are urged to partner with ~~non-profit~~ FOR-PROFIT or
12 not-for-profit organizations that evaluate the quality of early childhood
13 care and education programs in the ~~pilot site agencies~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD
14 COUNCILS and assign ratings thereto in an effort to assess the success of
15 such programs and to improve the ultimate delivery of early childhood
16 care and education. Counties so partnering are further encouraged to
17 match private investments in such early childhood care and education
18 programs with county block grant moneys for Colorado works pursuant
19 to part 7 of article 2 of this title and federal child care development funds
20 in an effort to improve the overall quality of those programs. COUNTIES
21 SO PARTNERING ARE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO EXPEND LOCAL FUNDS TO
22 PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ARTICLE AND IMPROVE THE DELIVERY
23 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES, INCLUDING THE CONTINUATION OF THOSE
24 FUNDING SOURCES DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT PILOT SITE AGENCY
25 ACTIVITIES.

26 **SECTION 13. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.