# Second Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

### **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 22-0061.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 22-1215** 

#### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

McCluskie and Bacon,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

## **House Committees**

**Senate Committees** 

Education

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#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ENROLL IN POSTSECONDARY COURSES.

### **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The bill directs the commissioner of education (commissioner) to convene the early college policy development task force (task force) to design and recommend policies and changes to law to support the statewide development of and funding for early college programs and p-tech schools. The bill specifies the membership of the task force, to be selected by the commissioner, and the specific duties of the task force.

The task force must prepare an interim report and a final report of its findings and recommendations, and submit the reports by December 1, 2022, and December 1, 2023, respectively, to the governor, the education leadership council, the state board of education, the Colorado commission on higher education, and the education committees of the general assembly. The bill creates a legislative advisory council to provide advice and comment to the task force.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 2 to article 3 35.3 of title 22 as follows: 4 PART 2 5 EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT 6 22-35.3-201. **Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL 7 ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT: 8 (a) COLORADO'S ECONOMIC VITALITY DEPENDS ON A HIGHLY 9 EDUCATED, SKILLED, AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE READY TO MEET THE JOB 10 DEMANDS OF A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD. THIS REQUIRES A 11 LEARNER-CENTERED APPROACH TO EVALUATING CURRENT PROGRAMS 12 DESIGNED TO PROVIDE POSTSECONDARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 13 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL AND, ULTIMATELY, CREATING 14 PATHWAYS AND WORKFORCE OPTIONS THAT BLUR THE LINES BETWEEN 15 EDUCATION AND CAREER. 16 (b) ALTHOUGH COLORADO IS CONSIDERED A NATIONAL LEADER IN 17 CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT POLICY, THE STATE HAS SEVERAL STATUTES 18 AUTHORIZING STUDENTS TO EARN COLLEGE CREDITS WHILE ENROLLED IN 19 HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WERE ENACTED AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND ADDRESS 20 VARIOUS ASPECTS OF COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS, INCLUDING 21 CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED IN ARTICLE 35 OF 22 THIS TITLE 22; THE ACCELERATING STUDENTS THROUGH CONCURRENT

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1	ENROLLMENT, OR ASCENT, PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 22-35-108;
2	PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY COLLEGE, OR P-TECH, HIGH SCHOOLS
3	${\bf AUTHORIZED IN PART 1 OF THIS ARTICLE 35.3; THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT}$
4	EDUCATION AND PREPARATION, OR TREP, PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION
5	22-35-108.5, AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES;
6	(c) EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE EDUCATIONAL
7	OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE A STUDENT TO SIMULTANEOUSLY EARN A
8	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND COMPLETE A COLLEGE CERTIFICATE OR
9	DEGREE, HAVE OPERATED IN THE UNITED STATES FOR NEARLY TWO
10	DECADES;
11	(d) EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS DIFFER FROM TRADITIONAL
12	CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT IN THAT EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS ARE NOT
13	SIMPLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES
14	IN HIGH SCHOOL BUT RATHER TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO ENROLL IN HIGHER
15	EDUCATION AS DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS WHILE ENROLLED IN HIGH
16	SCHOOL;
17	(e) EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS HAVE ENJOYED IMPRESSIVE
18	OUTCOMES, AND MANY DEMONSTRATE COLLEGE COMPLETION RATES THAT
19	FAR EXCEED STATEWIDE OR INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGES;
20	(f) ALTHOUGH EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS MAY INCREASE COSTS
21	FOR DIRECT INSTRUCTION IN THE SHORT RUN, IN THE LONG RUN THESE
22	PROGRAMS ARE GENERALLY MORE EFFICIENT AND EXHIBIT MORE
23	EFFECTIVE USES OF PUBLIC REVENUES;
24	(g) COLORADO LAW ALLOWS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
25	DESIGNATE EARLY COLLEGES AND P-TECH SCHOOLS, WHICH ARE EARLY
26	COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS THAT SPAN SIX YEARS, INCLUDE INDUSTRY
27	PARTNERS, AND PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED

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1	ASSOCIATE DEGREE;
2	(h) COLORADO HAS MORE THAN TWENTY EARLY COLLEGES AND
3	SEVEN P-TECH HIGH SCHOOLS;
4	(i) COLORADO ALSO APPROPRIATES MONEY TO FUND UP TO FIVE
5	HUNDRED STUDENTS IN THE ASCENT PROGRAM EACH YEAR, HOWEVER
6	THESE STUDENTS ARE NOT ENROLLED IN EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS;
7	(j) Through these programs and the expansion of
8	WORK-BASED LEARNING AND PARTNERSHIPS, ACCORDING TO THE
9	COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NEARLY SIXTEEN THOUSAND
10	STUDENTS COMPLETED INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS, WORK-BASED
11	LEARNING EXPERIENCES, AND QUALIFIED COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOLS
12	BETWEEN 2016 AND 2019;
13	(k) IMPORTANTLY, ALTHOUGH COLORADO HAS MANY EXAMPLES
14	OF INNOVATION THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT, THE SCALABILITY
15	OF THESE PROGRAMS, DESPITE THEIR SUCCESS, CAN BE LIMITED DUE TO
16	LEGAL, GEOGRAPHIC, AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS;
17	(1) IN 2018, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED SENATE BILL 18-225,
18	WHICH DEFINED EARLY COLLEGES AS HIGH SCHOOLS THAT PROVIDE AN
19	EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM THAT A STUDENT CAN COMPLETE IN FOUR
20	YEARS OR LESS. THIS LEGISLATION EFFECTIVELY ENDED SEVERAL HIGHLY
21	SUCCESSFUL EARLY COLLEGE MODELS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE STATE
22	CONTINUED TO FUND OTHER FIVE- AND SIX-YEAR OPTIONS.
23	(m) Despite earnest efforts to improve access to early
24	COLLEGE PROGRAMS IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES, THE MAJORITY
25	OF EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS
26	IN URBAN AND LARGER SCHOOL DISTRICTS;
27	(n) RECENTLY, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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1	AUTHORIZED THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT CONCURRENT
2	ENROLLMENT AND EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM COSTS. THESE
3	OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE USING PROGRAMS CREATED IN TITLE I AND TITLE
4	IV of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965", 20
5	U.S.C. SEC. 6301 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR
6	CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COSTS.
7	(o) In 2009, the Colorado P-20 education coordinating
8	COUNCIL, A BROAD, BIPARTISAN, STATEWIDE COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS,
9	BUSINESS EXPERTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS, RECOMMENDED THE
10	DEVELOPMENT OF THE "CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS ACT",
11	ARTICLE 35 OF THIS TITLE 22. THIS LEGISLATION CREATED MUCH OF
12	CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT AS IT NOW EXISTS IN COLORADO, INCLUDING
13	THE ASCENT AND EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS.
14	(p) AFTER MORE THAN TEN YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION, THESE
15	CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT AND EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS

- 16 DEMONSTRATE A PATTERN OF POSITIVE IMPACTS ON STUDENTS, BUT THERE 17 IS INEQUITABLE ACCESS STATEWIDE, WHICH IS CAUSED IN PART BY A 18 COMPLICATED AND INTERWOVEN SET OF ISSUES RELATED TO PROGRAM 19 APPROVAL AND FUNDING. CONSEQUENTLY, THE STATE SHOULD PROVIDE 20 WELL-INFORMED EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND POLICY 21 PROFESSIONALS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAREFULLY DELIBERATE TO ENSURE 22 THAT SUCCESSFUL, HIGH-PERFORMING PROGRAMS ARE NOT ADVERSELY 23 IMPACTED WHILE STRATEGIES ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE INNOVATION AND 24 MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS 25 IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE.
  - (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS, THEREFORE, THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DIRECT THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE AN

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1	EARLY COLLEGE POLICY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AND
2	RECOMMEND NEW STATE LAWS TO SUPPORT THE EQUITABLE AND
3	SUSTAINABLE EXPANSION OF EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM AND P-TECH
4	SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL REGIONS OF THE STATE AND TO
5	REESTABLISH COLORADO AS A LEADER IN EDUCATION INNOVATION IN THE
6	NATION.
7	22-35.3-202. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
8	CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
9	(1) "ASCENT PROGRAM" MEANS THE ACCELERATING STUDENTS
10	THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION
11	22-35-108.
12	(2) "COMMISSIONER" MEANS THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
13	APPOINTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION
14	1 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.
15	(3) "EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM" MEANS AN EDUCATIONAL
16	PROGRAM THAT ENABLES A STUDENT TO SIMULTANEOUSLY EARN A HIGH
17	SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND COMPLETE A POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR
18	DEGREE.
19	(4) "EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S
20	EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CREATED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER B
21	2017-001.
22	(5) "P-TECH SCHOOL" MEANS A PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY
23	COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, OR PROGRAM WITHIN A HOST SCHOOL, THAT IS
24	APPROVED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF THIS ARTICLE 35.3.
25	(6) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE EARLY COLLEGE POLICY
26	DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE CONVENED BY THE COMMISSIONER PURSUANT
27	TO SECTION 22-35.3-203.

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1	(7) "TREP PROGRAM" MEANS THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT
2	EDUCATION AND PREPARATION PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION
3	22-35-108.5.
4	22-35.3-203. Early college policy development task force.
5	(1) No later than July 1, 2022, the commissioner shall convene
6	THE EARLY COLLEGE POLICY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE
7	MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF, AT A MINIMUM:
8	(a) THE COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE;
9	(b) The executive director of the department of higher
10	EDUCATION OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE; AND
11	(c) THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS SELECTED BY THE
12	COMMISSIONER:
13	(I) REPRESENTATIVES FROM SECONDARY EDUCATION WHO HAVE
14	EXPERIENCE IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING, AT
15	A MINIMUM, REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS,
16	PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS;
17	(II) REPRESENTATIVES FROM HIGHER EDUCATION WHO HAVE
18	EXPERIENCE IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING, AT
19	A MINIMUM, REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
20	EDUCATION, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES, AREA
21	TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, AND STUDENTS;
22	(III) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE WORK FORCE
23	DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 24-46.3-101;
24	(IV) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP
25	COUNCIL;
26	(V) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY; AND
27	(VI) REPRESENTATIVES FROM EDUCATION ADVOCACY GROUPS

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1	THAT ADDRESS CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ISSUES.
2	(2) THE COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE SHALL
3	SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT
4	THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AT LEAST FOUR TIMES FROM JULY 2022 THROUGH
5	DECEMBER 2022 AND AT LEAST FOUR TIMES FROM MAY 2023 THROUGH
6	DECEMBER 2023. THE TASK FORCE IS A STATE PUBLIC BODY FOR PURPOSES
7	OF SECTION 24-6-402, AND MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE ARE SUBJECT TO
8	THE REQUIREMENTS OF SAID SECTION. THE TASK FORCE IS SUBJECT TO THE
9	PROVISIONS OF THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE
10	72 of title 24.
11	(3) THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
12	BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THEIR
13	SERVICE ON THE TASK FORCE.
14	(4) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
15	HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE TASK FORCE STAFF SUPPORT
16	AND MEETING SPACE UPON REQUEST OF THE CHAIR.
17	22-35.3-204. Task force duties - report. (1) THE TASK FORCE
18	SHALL:
19	(a) COORDINATE WITH THE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IN
20	COMPLETING ITS DUTIES;
21	(b) DESIGN AND RECOMMEND COMPREHENSIVE, UNIFORM POLICIES
22	THAT ENABLE HIGH SCHOOLS AND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO
23	CREATE AND SUSTAIN EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS IN EVERY REGION OF
24	THE STATE. THE TASK FORCE SHALL DESIGN THE POLICY
25	RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENABLE ALL HIGH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE EARLY
26	COLLEGE PROGRAMS THAT ARE FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMS, ENCOMPASSING
27	GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE; FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMS, ENCOMPASSING

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1	GRADES NINE THROUGH THIRTEEN; OR SIX-YEAR PROGRAMS.
2	ENCOMPASSING GRADES NINE THROUGH FOURTEEN. IN DESIGNING
3	COMPREHENSIVE, UNIFORM POLICIES FOR FOUR-, FIVE-, AND SIX-YEAR
4	EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS, THE TASK FORCE SHALL ADDRESS THE WAYS
5	IN WHICH EXISTING STATUTES AND RULES MUST BE MODIFIED, COMBINED,
6	OR REPEALED TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF ENSURING ACCESS TO EARLY
7	COLLEGE PROGRAMS IN ALL REGIONS OF THE STATE.
8	(c) DESIGN AND RECOMMEND POLICIES TO EXPAND INNOVATIVE
9	POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL OPTIONS AND COURSE
10	PATHWAYS AVAILABLE THROUGH EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS, WITH A
11	FOCUS ON COURSE PATHWAYS LEADING TO CREDENTIALS ASSOCIATED
12	WITH HIGH-NEED, IN-DEMAND, HIGH-VALUE BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES.
13	COURSE PATHWAYS MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, CAREER
14	AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES, CONCURRENT OR DUAL
15	ENROLLMENT OPTIONS, ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
16	BACCALAUREATE COURSES, WORK-BASED LEARNING, AND
17	APPRENTICESHIPS.
18	(d) Make recommendations concerning the creation of A
19	STATEWIDE CORPS OF COUNSELORS TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN IDENTIFYING
20	UNDERSTANDING, AND NAVIGATING OPTIONS FOR EARLY COLLEGE
21	PROGRAMS AND P-TECH SCHOOLS AND OTHER CONCURRENT AND DUAL
22	ENROLLMENT OPTIONS;
23	(e) TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUNDING
24	SOURCES, DESIGN POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CREATE A UNIFORM
25	AND COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR EARLY COLLEGE
26	PROGRAMS AND P-TECH SCHOOLS. THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS MUST
27	ADDRESS IMPLICATIONS FOR EXISTING CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

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PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE ASCENT PROGRAM AND THE TREP
PROGRAM.

- (f) RECOMMEND CHARACTERISTICS OF AND STANDARDS FOR EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS, DISTINGUISHING AMONG FOUR-, FIVE-, AND SIX-YEAR EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS, FOR PURPOSES OF AUTHORIZING AND MEASURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS. THE CHARACTERISTICS AND STANDARDS MUST ALLOW HIGH SCHOOLS OF ALL SIZES AND FROM EVERY REGION IN THE STATE TO DEMONSTRATE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM QUALITY, REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL. ADDITIONALLY, THE CHARACTERISTICS AND STANDARDS MUST PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOW HIGH SCHOOLS TO SHORTEN OR LENGTHEN THE DURATION OF THE SCHOOL'S EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS, AS THE SCHOOL DEEMS APPROPRIATE, AMONG FOUR-, FIVE-, AND SIX-YEAR EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS.
  - (2) IN COMPLETING ITS DUTIES, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SOLICIT INPUT FROM EMPLOYERS THAT WORK WITH EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS AND P-TECH SCHOOLS, TEACHERS WHO WORK IN EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS OR P-TECH SCHOOLS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOLS, BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, AND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS FROM AROUND THE STATE WHO HAVE EXPERTISE IN EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS AND P-TECH SCHOOLS.

(3) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PREPARE AN INTERIM WRITTEN REPORT AND A FINAL WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBMIT THE REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

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1	OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
2	COMMITTEES. THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT THE INTERIM WRITTEN
3	REPORT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022, AND THE FINAL WRITTEN
4	REPORT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023.
5	22-35.3-205. Legislative advisory council - created. THERE IS
6	CREATED A LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSISTING OF LEGISLATORS
7	APPOINTED, ONE EACH, BY THE SPEAKER AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF
8	THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT AND THE MINORITY
9	LEADER OF THE SENATE, NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2022. THE LEGISLATIVE
10	ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE ADVICE AND COMMENT TO THE TASK
11	FORCE AND ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE
12	TASK FORCE.
13	22-35.3-206. Repeal of part. This part 2 is repealed, effective
14	January 1, 2024.
15	SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
16	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
17	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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