



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1013

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Kraft-Tharp and Lee, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Landgraf, Lawrence, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winkler, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran;
also SENATOR(S) Gardner and Martinez Humenik, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF THE COLORADO JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COUNCIL, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE COUNCIL TO REDRAFT ARTICLE 2 OF THE COLORADO CHILDREN'S CODE.

WHEREAS, The Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council (JJDP Council) provides statewide leadership and advocacy to improve the juvenile justice system, prevent delinquency, and ensure equal justice and accountability for all youth while maximizing community safety; and

WHEREAS, The Children's Code Committee (Committee) of the JJDP Council has established two primary reasons for recodifying article 2 of the Children's Code (Code) of the Colorado Revised Statutes: The

first is to improve the clarity of the laws for those who implement them, as well as those who are affected by them, and the second is to ensure that any future changes or modifications to the Code are in line with established best practices and current research; and

WHEREAS, The Committee has found that article 2 of the Code is ripe for contextual review given the advances in juvenile research that have occurred since it was last revised, including the increased understanding of adolescent brain development, youth development, effective public safety measures, and the need for family engagement, and the Committee believes these advances should be reflected in Colorado's laws; and

WHEREAS, To achieve these goals, the Committee has developed a two-phase approach: The first was to reorder article 2 of the Code based on how a juvenile proceeds through the system; now, in phase two, the Committee continues to work to improve article 2 of the Code by developing and proposing recommendations that are informed by the hallmarks of the developmental approach and existing Colorado practices and that are based on a series of strategic questions, research, and the foundational work completed by the Committee; and

WHEREAS, The important work of the Committee and the JJDP Council is paramount to creating a developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system that promotes public safety, individual accountability, juvenile rehabilitation, and positive adolescent development; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the General Assembly:

(1) Recognize that a developmental and evidence-based approach to reforming juvenile justice in Colorado begins with both the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council and the Children's Code Committee; and

(2) In accordance with these principles, encourage the JJDP Council and the Committee to redraft article 2 of the Children's Code by August of 2020.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council; the members of the Children's Code Committee; the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety; the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services; the Director of the Division of Youth Services; the Director of the Division of Child Welfare; the Director of the Office of Behavioral Health; the Colorado District Attorneys' Council; the State Public Defender; the Director of the Office of Alternate Defense Counsel; the Director of the Office of the Child's Representative; the State Court Administrator; the Chair of the Colorado State Board of Education; the Colorado Commissioner of Education; the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police; Denise Maes, Public Policy Director of the ACLU of Colorado; Rebecca Wallace, staff counsel at the ACLU of Colorado; Judge David Miller, 4th Judicial District Judge; Stephanie Villafuerte, Child Protection Ombudsman; Director of Probation Services at State Judicial; Chair of the Juvenile Parole Board; and the County Sheriffs of Colorado, so they can be informed and develop a process for involvement with the JJDP Council for involvement in this Code review and work.

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE