

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0674.01 Brita Darling x2241

SENATE BILL 25-271

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ball and Rich,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Espenosa and Luck,

Senate Committees
Business, Labor, & Technology

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF PART 3 OF ARTICLE 13.3 OF TITLE 8,**
102 **COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, CONTAINING OBSOLETE**
103 **PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE STUDY OF A PAID FAMILY AND**
104 **MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM.**

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 <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Statutory Revision Committee. Senate Bill 19-188 created a family and medical leave task force and required the department of labor and employment to analyze various aspects of the administration of a

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 11, 2025

family and medical leave program (program) and to contract for an actuarial study of a proposed program. The actuarial study was completed in 2019 and the task force completed its final report on January 8, 2020. Therefore, the bill repeals these obsolete statutory provisions contained in part 3 of article 13.3 of title 8, Colorado Revised Statutes.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** part 3 of
3 article 13.3 of title 8 as follows:

4 ~~**8-13.3-301. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly~~
5 ~~hereby finds and declares that:~~

6 ~~(a) Colorado is a family-friendly state, and providing the workers~~
7 ~~of Colorado with family and medical leave insurance will encourage an~~
8 ~~entrepreneurial atmosphere and economic growth and promote a healthy~~
9 ~~business climate;~~

10 ~~(b) The United States is the only industrialized nation in the world~~
11 ~~that does not mandate access to paid leave benefits. Simultaneously,~~
12 ~~nearly half of Americans live paycheck to paycheck and are unable to~~
13 ~~access two thousand dollars in the event of an emergency.~~

14 ~~(c) This part 3 prepares for the implementation of a paid family~~
15 ~~and medical leave program in the state by completing a thorough analysis~~
16 ~~of paid family and medical leave programs by experts in the field, the~~
17 ~~establishment of a family and medical leave implementation task force,~~
18 ~~and actuarial and third-party studies;~~

19 ~~(d) As specified in this part 3:~~

20 ~~(f) The timeline for the analysis and implementation of a statewide~~
21 ~~paid family and medical leave program is as follows:~~

22 ~~(A) By July 1, 2019, appointing authorities are required to make~~
23 ~~their appointments to the task force;~~

1 ~~(B) By October 1, 2019, the department is required to provide the~~
2 ~~task force with the results of a third-party study and paid family and~~
3 ~~medical leave plan recommendations from the experts in the field, and the~~
4 ~~task force is required to accept and consider public comment regarding~~
5 ~~the administration and establishment of a paid family and medical leave~~
6 ~~program;~~

7 ~~(C) By November 1, 2019, the task force shall make its initial~~
8 ~~recommendation on a family and medical leave program for employees~~
9 ~~in the state and provide the recommendation to an actuary contracted by~~
10 ~~the department;~~

11 ~~(D) By December 1, 2019, an independent actuarial analysis must~~
12 ~~be completed and submitted to the task force;~~

13 ~~(E) By January 8, 2020, the task force shall report its final~~
14 ~~recommendation on a paid family and medical leave program for all~~
15 ~~employees in the state;~~

16 ~~(H) The timeline may also be assumed as follows:~~

17 ~~(A) By July 1, 2020, the family and medical leave program will~~
18 ~~be established;~~

19 ~~(B) By January 1, 2022, the public education and outreach~~
20 ~~campaign will begin;~~

21 ~~(C) By January 1, 2023, the family and medical leave program~~
22 ~~funding will begin; and~~

23 ~~(D) By January 1, 2024, the family and medical leave program~~
24 ~~will start paying benefits;~~

25 ~~(e) The intent of this part 3 is to assist in the preparation of~~
26 ~~legislation in the 2020 legislative session establishing a paid family and~~
27 ~~medical leave program in the state.~~

1 ~~8-13.3-302. Definitions.~~ As used in this part 3, unless the context
2 otherwise requires:

3 (1) "Department" means the department of labor and employment.

4 (2) ~~"Executive director" means the executive director of the~~
5 ~~department.~~

6 (3) ~~"Task force" means the family and medical leave~~
7 ~~implementation task force created in section 8-13.3-304 (1).~~

8 ~~8-13.3-303. Department to perform analyses.~~ (1) (a) ~~The~~
9 ~~department shall analyze the feasibility of contracting with a third party~~
10 ~~to administer parts of a paid family and medical leave program for all~~
11 ~~employees in the state as an alternative to state administration of all~~
12 ~~aspects of such a program. In determining whether a third party should~~
13 ~~administer parts of a paid family and medical leave program, the~~
14 ~~department shall consider whether doing so would be cost-effective, in~~
15 ~~the short term and in the long term for both the state and covered~~
16 ~~individuals, and lead to more efficient program administration and benefit~~
17 ~~management while assuring quality, worker experience, affordability,~~
18 ~~coverage, and program accountability, as compared to if the state~~
19 ~~administers all aspects of the program.~~

20 ~~(b) In fulfilling the requirements of this subsection (1), the~~
21 ~~department shall make a request for information from third parties that~~
22 ~~may be willing to administer single or multiple parts of a paid family and~~
23 ~~medical leave program. The requests for information pursuant to this~~
24 ~~subsection (1)(b) must solicit information from third parties that includes,~~
25 ~~but is not limited to, the third party's:~~

26 ~~(I) Prior experience with paid family and medical leave insurance~~
27 ~~or providing monetary benefits in Colorado related to employees taking~~

1 ~~leave from work due to serious health conditions, parental bonding, or~~
2 ~~other family and medical leave purposes;~~

3 ~~(II) Commitment to affirmative action, diversity, equity, and~~
4 ~~inclusion policies;~~

5 ~~(III) Language access experience and cultural competency; and~~
6 ~~(IV) Current or expected employee pay rates and benefits.~~

7 ~~(c) Any study pursuant to this section must consider:~~

8 ~~(I) The estimated difference in administrative costs charged by~~
9 ~~third parties as compared to a state-run paid family and medical leave~~
10 ~~program;~~

11 ~~(II) The estimated difference in claims processing speeds;~~

12 ~~(III) The state's costs to oversee any third-party administration,~~
13 ~~including costs to conduct annual audits and review regular reports from~~
14 ~~the third party;~~

15 ~~(IV) The ability of a third party to satisfy necessary worker~~
16 ~~privacy and confidentiality requirements;~~

17 ~~(V) The ability of a third party to access existing state data or to~~
18 ~~effectively interface with the department's systems and information;~~

19 ~~(VI) The potential costs and challenges associated with~~
20 ~~terminating a third-party contract due to quality or compliance concerns~~
21 ~~following implementation of the program, as well as the feasibility of~~
22 ~~timely substituting administration by the state or a different third party~~
23 ~~without a disruption in benefits and administration; and~~

24 ~~(VII) A timeline that presumes a paid family and medical leave~~
25 ~~program that is established by July 1, 2020; begins public education and~~
26 ~~outreach on January 1, 2022; establishes the funding stream on January~~
27 ~~1, 2023; and starts paying benefits on January 1, 2024.~~

1 ~~(d) The department's study must specifically address the effect of~~
2 ~~using a third-party administrator on the following aspects of a paid family~~
3 ~~and medical leave program:~~

4 ~~(I) Claims appeals and administrative enforcement;~~

5 ~~(II) Premium rate setting and collection of premiums;~~

6 ~~(III) Approval and oversight of private plans, if applicable; and~~

7 ~~(IV) Management of elective coverage of employees who may not~~
8 ~~be included in the program.~~

9 ~~(2)(a)(I) The department shall contract with at least three experts~~
10 ~~in the field of paid family and medical leave selected by the task force.~~
11 ~~The experts must be local and national experts:~~

12 ~~(A) With demonstrated experience studying the health, economic,~~
13 ~~and social benefits of access to paid leave; the cost and economic impact~~
14 ~~of paid leave; and the drafting and implementation of paid family and~~
15 ~~medical leave programs at the state level; and~~

16 ~~(B) Who have some familiarity with cross-state comparisons.~~

17 ~~(II) The department shall commission a report from the experts~~
18 ~~under contract with the department pursuant to this subsection (2)(a) on~~
19 ~~the establishment of a paid family and medical leave program for~~
20 ~~employees in the state. The recommendations must specify the parameters~~
21 ~~that ensure that a program:~~

22 ~~(A) Is affordable for the lowest-wage workers;~~

23 ~~(B) Is equitable across workers of all incomes and classifications;~~

24 ~~(C) Is accessible particularly to workers least likely to have access~~
25 ~~to paid leave today;~~

26 ~~(D) Is adequate; and~~

27 ~~(E) Includes a minimum duration of leave that meets~~

1 evidence-based standards and wage replacement that is sufficient to allow
2 the lowest-wage workers to participate.

3 (b) ~~The recommendations must review, evaluate, and assess at~~
4 ~~least the following elements, without limitation:~~

5 (I) ~~The purposes of the leave, including serious illness, caring for~~
6 ~~a loved one with a serious illness, bonding with a new child, and needs~~
7 ~~arising from military deployment and the effects of domestic violence,~~
8 ~~stalking, and sexual assault;~~

9 (II) ~~Self-employed workers' access to paid family and medical~~
10 ~~leave and a mechanism to allow self-employed workers to participate;~~

11 (III) ~~Eligibility to take leave;~~

12 (IV) ~~The definition of family or family member for whom an~~
13 ~~individual may take leave for purposes of providing care;~~

14 (V) ~~Job protection and other employment protections, including~~
15 ~~their effect on an individual's ability to take leave;~~

16 (VI) ~~The duration of leave;~~

17 (VII) ~~The amount of the wage replacement;~~

18 (VIII) ~~The maximum weekly wage replacement amount;~~

19 (IX) ~~The program funding structure;~~

20 (X) ~~Program implementation;~~

21 (XI) ~~The role of third-party vendors on program sustainability;~~

22 (XII) ~~The solvency of a paid family and medical leave fund under~~
23 ~~various models;~~

24 (XIII) ~~The portability of paid family and medical leave benefits;~~

25 (XIV) ~~The sustainability of a paid family and medical leave~~
26 ~~program;~~

27 (XV) ~~How a paid family and medical leave program would~~

1 interact with other benefits; and

2 (XVI) A timeline that presumes a paid family and medical leave
3 program that is established by July 1, 2020; begins education and
4 outreach on January 1, 2022; establishes the funding stream on January
5 1, 2023; and starts paying benefits on January 1, 2024.

6 (3) No later than October 1, 2019:

7 (a) The department shall provide the task force created in section
8 8-13.3-304 with:

9 (I) The results of the third-party study conducted pursuant to
10 subsection (1) of this section; and

11 (II) The paid family and medical leave plan report from experts
12 commissioned in accordance with subsection (2) of this section; and

13 (b) The department of public health and environment shall provide
14 the task force with a report detailing the health benefits related to paid
15 family and medical leave.

16 (4) The department shall contract for the services of a qualified
17 private actuary to perform an actuarial study of the initial
18 recommendation for a family and medical leave program created by the
19 task force pursuant to section 8-13.3-304 (8)(b). The actuarial study shall
20 be provided to the task force no later than December 1, 2019.

21 **8-13.3-304. Family and medical leave implementation task**
22 **force.** (1) There is hereby created in the department the family and
23 medical leave implementation task force.

24 (2) The task force consists of the following members:

25 (a) Three members who are workers or represent an organization
26 that represents workers' interests in paid family and medical leave, each
27 of whom shall be appointed from a list of at least three names submitted

- 1 by a recognized statewide organization that promotes workers' rights;
- 2 (b) ~~Three members who are private employers with a range of~~
- 3 ~~business size and experience in providing employees with paid family and~~
- 4 ~~medical leave, each of whom shall be appointed from a list of at least~~
- 5 ~~three names submitted by a recognized statewide organization of~~
- 6 ~~employers;~~
- 7 (c) ~~One member who is a representative of a state policy~~
- 8 ~~organization that works on issues of economic opportunity;~~
- 9 (d) ~~One member who is a private insurer with experience in~~
- 10 ~~administering temporary disability or family and medical leave insurance~~
- 11 ~~benefits;~~
- 12 (e) ~~One member who represents a state policy organization that~~
- 13 ~~works on health advocacy;~~
- 14 (f) ~~One labor economist with demonstrated research or expertise~~
- 15 ~~in studying paid family and medical leave and labor standards, and the~~
- 16 ~~data necessary to do so;~~
- 17 (g) ~~One member who is a representative of a statewide domestic~~
- 18 ~~violence organization;~~
- 19 (h) ~~One member who is a professional from a recognized~~
- 20 ~~institution of higher education and who has expertise in studying paid~~
- 21 ~~family and medical leave;~~
- 22 (i) ~~One member who is a representative of organized labor; and~~
- 23 (j) ~~Two nonvoting members, one of whom must represent the~~
- 24 ~~department.~~
- 25 (3) ~~The members of the task force are appointed as follows:~~
- 26 (a) ~~The governor shall appoint one member;~~
- 27 (b) ~~The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint four~~

1 members;

2 (c) The president of the senate shall appoint four members;

3 (d) The house minority leader shall appoint two members;

4 (e) The senate minority leader shall appoint two members;

5 (f) The executive director shall appoint one nonvoting member;

6 and

7 (g) The executive director of the department of personnel shall

8 appoint one nonvoting member.

9 (4) (a) The appointing authorities shall make the appointments to

10 the task force no later than July 1, 2019.

11 (b) In making the appointments, the appointing authorities shall

12 ensure that the appointments reflect communities of color, rural

13 communities, and historically underutilized businesses, as defined in

14 section 24-49.5-105 (4).

15 (c) The department shall assist and coordinate the appointing

16 authorities to ensure that members appointed to the task force pursuant to

17 subsection (3) of this section meet the membership requirements specified

18 in subsection (2) of this section.

19 (5) Each member of the task force serves at the pleasure of the

20 appointing authority.

21 (6) Each member of the task force serves without compensation

22 but is entitled to receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses

23 the member incurs in the performance of the member's duties as a

24 member of the task force.

25 (7) (a) The member appointed by the executive director shall call

26 the first meeting of the task force.

27 (b) The task force shall elect a chair from among its voting

1 members:

2 (8)(a) No later than September 1, 2019, the task force shall accept
3 and consider public comment regarding the administration and
4 establishment of a paid family and medical leave program in the state.
5 The task force shall receive public comment for a minimum of thirty
6 days:

7 (b) No later than November 1, 2019, the task force shall make an
8 initial recommendation on a family and medical leave program for
9 employees in the state and provide the recommendation to the actuary
10 contracted by the department pursuant to section 8-13.3-303 (4). In
11 making the recommendation, the task force shall consider the information
12 it receives pursuant to section 8-13.3-303 (3):

13 (c) No later than January 8, 2020, after consideration of the
14 actuarial analysis performed on the task force's initial recommendation,
15 the task force shall report its final recommendation on a paid family and
16 medical leave program for all employees in the state, along with the
17 third-party administration study made pursuant to section 8-13.3-303 (1),
18 and the actuarial study made pursuant to section 8-13.3-303 (4) to:

19 (I) The senate committees on finance and business, labor, and
20 technology, or their successor committees;

21 (II) The house of representatives committees on finance and
22 business affairs and labor, or their successor committees; and

23 (III) The governor:

24 (d) Recommendations made by the task force pursuant to this
25 subsection (8) should attempt to meet a timeline that presumes a paid
26 family and medical leave program that is established by July 1, 2020;
27 begins education and outreach on January 1, 2022; establishes the funding

1 ~~stream on January 1, 2023; and starts paying benefits on January 1, 2024.~~

2 ~~(9) Upon request by the task force, the department shall provide~~
3 ~~office space, equipment, and staff services as may be necessary to~~
4 ~~implement this section.~~

5 ~~**8-13.3-305. Paid family and medical leave program**~~
6 ~~**implementation authorization.**~~ The department shall not implement the
7 recommended plan for a paid family and medical leave program unless
8 the general assembly, acting by bill, directs the department to implement
9 the program. If the department is directed to implement the plan, it shall
10 begin implementation by a date specified by the general assembly acting
11 by bill.

12 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
15 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
16 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
17 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
18 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
19 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.