



Request 2017-02

State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Pettersen
With support of: Representative Wilson, Senator Jahn, and Senator Smallwood

Re: Request for Interim Study Committee Regarding Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders in Colorado

Date: 04/14/2017

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support strategies for opioid and other substance use disorders in Colorado. The interim study committee would be named the "Interim Study Committee on Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders".

The policy issues to be studied are:

- a review of data and statistics on the scope of the substance use disorder problem in Colorado, including trends in rates of substance abuse, treatment admissions, and deaths from substance use;
- an overview of the current prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources, including substance abuse prevention outreach and education, available to Coloradans, as well as public and private insurance coverage and other sources of support for treatment and recovery resources;
- a review of the availability of medication-assisted treatment and whether pharmacists can prescribe those medications through the development of collaborative pharmacy practice agreements with physicians;
- an examination of what other states and countries are doing to address substance use disorders, including evidence-based best practices and the use of evidence in determining strategies to treat substance use disorders, and best practices on the use of prescription drug monitoring programs;
- identification of the gaps in prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources available to Coloradans and hurdles to accessing those resources; and
- identification of possible legislative options to address gaps and hurdles to accessing prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources.

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

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

- five members of the Senate, with three appointed by the President of the Senate and two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- five members of the House of Representatives, with three appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives will appoint the chair of the interim study committee, and the President of the Senate will appoint the vice-chair.

The appointments must be made by June 1, 2017.

A task force is necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above. The task force will consist of members from the following groups: the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force, the Colorado Providers Association, the Colorado Medical Society, the Colorado Pharmacists Society, the Harm Reduction Action Center, a law enforcement representative, a non-law enforcement first responder representative, and a representative of the substance abuse recovery field.

The task force is necessary to convene stakeholders that have expertise on different aspects of the substance use disorder issue in Colorado and to avoid duplication of efforts on this issue. Many of the proposed task force members have been gathering data and working toward solutions regarding substance use prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery.

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

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; the Office of Behavioral Health in the Colorado Department of Human Services; the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; the Department of Public Safety; the Colorado Attorney General's Office; the Department of Regulatory Agencies; the National Conference of State Legislators, and the Council of State Governments may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.