

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

August 11, 2020

WHEREAS, In December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that then spread globally; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 is a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Colorado Governor Jared Polis declared a state disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in order to control the spread of COVID-19, the state has operated under a variety of executive orders closing various business and limiting business operations, requiring state residents to stay home as much as possible, restricting medical procedures, and other requirements; and

WHEREAS, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 1,700 Coloradoans have died from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe economic stress on the state, resulting in the closing of businesses, loss of thousands of Colorado jobs, and severe economic stress for Colorado residents and the state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Colorado General Assembly to hold interim legislative hearings to receive information regarding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the State of Colorado, now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

(1) That, pursuant to the authority set forth in section 2-3-303.3, Colorado Revised Statutes, the Executive Committee authorizes that six interim legislative hearings be held during the 2020 legislative interim as follows:

(a) two hearings concerning the effects of COVID-19 on the state's economy and fiscal situation, including discussion of :

(I) household impacts, including employment, personal income, consumer spending, housing, and evictions;

(II) business impacts, including business investment, access to credit, bankruptcies, and the state's business climate, including for the agriculture, energy, and tourism sectors;

(III) state government finances, including taxes and other revenues, maintenance of balanced budgets, and caseload demands; and

(IV) any other relevant information regarding the economic and fiscal impact of COVID-19 in Colorado;

(b) two hearings concerning the local government impact of COVID-19, including discussion of:

(I) the impact of public health orders issued by local public health agencies and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment;

(II) distribution and use of funding received from state and federal sources to address COVID-19 related issues, including funding for housing assistance, human services, public health, child care, public safety, and other;

(III) impact on services provided by local governments;

(IV) infrastructure and public transportation concerns;

(V) local government finances; and

(V) any other issue affecting local governments in Colorado during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) two hearings concerning the public health impact of COVID-19, including discussion of:

(I) public health orders issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and local public health agencies;

(II) reallocation of funding by public health agencies to support services related to the pandemic;

(III) federal funding for pandemic related services;

(IV) impact on the health care workforce, state medical assistance programs, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities;

(V) response to the pandemic by hospitals and impact on hospitals;

(VI) establishment of alternative care sites by the state;

- (VII) outcomes related to increased use of telehealth;
- (VIII) impact on the health insurance industry;
- (IX) impact on overall health of state population;
- (X) mental and physical health care issues unique to the pandemic;
- (XI) access to timely and quality health care for individuals during the pandemic; and
- (XII) any other public health or health care issue affecting Colorado residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(2) That the first of the two hearings authorized in subsection (1) (a), (1) (b), and (1) (c) be held in September 2020 and that the second hearing be held in December 2020;

(3) (a) That, for each of the hearings authorized in subsection (1) (a), (1) (b), and (1) (c), a unique committee of four legislative members shall be appointed as follows:

(I) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among the House of Representatives majority party caucus;

(II) The Senate President shall appoint one member from among the Senate majority party caucus;

(III) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among the House of Representatives minority party caucus; and

(IV) The Minority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one member from among the Senate minority party caucus.

(b) The members appointed pursuant to subsection (3) (a) (I) serve as chairs of the hearings held in September 2020 and vice-chairs of the hearings held in December 2020, and the members appointed pursuant to subsection (3) (a) (II) serve as chairs of the hearings held in December 2020 and the vice-chairs of the hearings held in September 2020;

(c) The members appointed pursuant to subsection (3) (a) shall be reimbursed for travel expenses and shall receive per diem payment for attending the interim hearings;

(d) Any additional members of the General Assembly who are not appointed pursuant to subsection (3) (a) may attend and participate in the interim hearings and may receive reimbursement for travel expenses, but may not receive per diem payments for attending the interim hearings; and

(e) Notwithstanding the policy of the Executive Committee regarding remote participation during committee meetings held during the legislative interim dated July 18, 2017, any member of the General Assembly that attends an interim hearing may participate electronically;

(4) That the interim hearings may include testimony from representatives of state and local governments, service providers, industry representatives, and any other entity or organization that may provide relevant testimony;

(5) That, because the timing of the interim hearings will not comply with interim committee bill drafting deadlines adopted by the Executive Committee, committee bills are not authorized and may not be introduced pursuant to this resolution; and

(6) That staff from the legislative service agencies shall provide support for the hearings.

Speaker KC Becker, Chair

President Leroy Garcia, Vice-Chair

House Majority Leader Alec Garnett

Senate Majority Leader Stephen Fenberg

House Minority Leader Patrick Neville

Senate Minority Leader Chris Holbert