

Child Labor Law in Colorado

Colorado State Legislature



OVERVIEW

The restriction of child labor found few champions in the 1800s among either employers, who needed workers, or parents, who needed income. By late in the century, however, child labor became a serious problem, and a few states began passing modest laws to deal with it. This child labor act was passed in Colorado in 1887.

GUIDED READING As you read, consider the following questions:

- In which industries was child labor restricted?
 - What is the punishment for employing children?
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An act to prohibit the employment of children under fourteen years of age for certain work.

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

Section 1. That any person who shall take, receive, hire, or employ any children under fourteen years of age in any underground works, or mine, or in any smelter, mill, or factory shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; and upon conviction thereof before any justice of the peace or court of record shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$50 for each offense: Provided, that a jury on the trial of any such case before a justice of the peace, shall be called and impaneled as in the case of assault and battery, and that the jury in such cases shall designate the amount of the fine in their verdict.

Section 2. That whenever any person shall before a justice of the peace make oath or affirm that the affiant believes that this act has been or is being violated, naming the person charged with such violation, such justice shall forthwith issue a warrant to a constable, or other authorized officer, and such officer shall arrest the person or persons so charged, and bring him or them before the justice issuing such warrant for a hearing. And it shall be the duty of all constables and policemen to aid in the enforcement of this act.

Section 3. That in default of the payment of the fine or penalty imposed under any of the provisions of this act, it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, or court of record before whom any person may be convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this act, to commit such person to the county jail, there to remain for not less than twenty days nor more than ninety days.