



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 19-1139

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0237 **Date:** February 6, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Carver **Bill Status:** House Education
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Bill Topic: AMERICAN CIVICS EDUCATION

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:** **No fiscal impact.** The bill allows school districts to adopt an American civics course of study that meets state academic standards. The bill has no fiscal impact.

**Appropriation
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note
Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill gives public schools the option of meeting the kindergarten through 8th grade state civics standards through an American civics course of study that emphasizes knowledge in:

- the history and origin of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights;
- the three branches of federal government and the system of checks and balances;
- federalism and the role of states;
- the individual rights protected by the Bill of Rights;
- Colorado's three branches of government;
- the Colorado Constitution; and
- the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship in the constitutional, representative federal system of government.

If the academic standards in civics require the study of government systems in other countries, public schools that choose to implement an American civics course of study should include in the course a comparative analysis of U.S. and the other country's systems of government. The bill encourages public schools to seek input on an American civics course of study from the community forums that are required under current law.

Background

State law requires that public schools teach the history and civil government of Colorado and the United States, including the history, culture, and contributions of minorities. Each school district must convene a community forum at least every 10 years to discuss content standards in civics. State academic standards, including those for civics education, are established by the State Board of Education.

Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

The bill does not impact the revenue or expenditures of state agencies, local governments, or school districts. Current law does not preclude public schools or school districts from implementing an American civics courses of study that includes the topic areas in the bill in order to meet state civics standards. The bill provides schools with a mechanism to meet state civics standards, but does not require that districts change how they are currently teaching civics. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education School Districts