



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB17-1271**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-1009  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Pettersen  
Sen. Priola

**Date:** March 23, 2017  
**Bill Status:** House Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**BILL TOPIC:** STANDARDS FOR INNOVATION DISTRICT WAIVERS

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, the State Board of Education (SBE) may designate a school district as a district of innovation and grant waivers of state statute or rules necessary to implement the district's innovation plan. These waivers remain in place so long as the district remains a district of innovation. This bill requires that the SBE apply the same standard used to waive statutes and rules for school districts in other circumstances to a district's request for waivers under an innovation plan. The bill allows the SBE to revoke waivers for innovation districts using the same standard the board uses to remove waivers for a school district in other circumstances.

**Background**

The Innovation Schools Act was passed in 2008 as a means of allowing school districts some of the same flexibility granted to charter schools. Schools and districts seeking innovation status must create an innovation plan, which must first be approved by the district's local board of education. Waivers approved by the local board must also be approved by the SBE. Unlike charter schools, there are no automatic waivers for innovation schools, and the SBE may not waive certain laws related to school finance, special education, district accountability and performance reporting, or background checks for educators.

**Assessment**

Aligning the criteria used by the SBE to approve waivers for school districts with the criteria used for innovation schools and districts will not change the workload, expenditures, or revenue of the Colorado Department of Education, or of any local education provider. For this reason, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Education