



# Legislative Council Staff

## Research Note

Version: House Second  
Reading  
Date: 3/17/2017

### Bill Number

House Bill 17-1201

### Sponsors

*Representative Coleman*  
*Senators Zenzinger & Priola*

### Short Title

*Science Tech Engineering Math*  
*Diploma Endorsement*

### Research Analyst

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### Status

The bill is currently pending before the House on second reading. This research note reflects the bill as amended by the House Education Committee on March 15, 2017.

### Background

**STEM Education.** The combined disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are considered valuable for obtaining important skills for workforce readiness and educating students in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration, and information literacy. The Colorado Department of Education sets the standards for mathematics and science for all grade levels, which are then adopted by the State Board of Education.

**Diploma endorsements.** A high school diploma can be endorsed to show the completion of a program or demonstration of a specific skill set. Currently, Colorado allows local education agencies to endorse high school diplomas for students that have met and achieved state requirements for postsecondary and workforce readiness.

### House Action

**House Education Committee (March 15, 2017).** At the hearing, representatives from Colorado Succeeds, Democrats for Education Reform, the Colorado Technology Association, and six private citizens testified in support of the bill. One private citizen spoke in opposition to the bill.

The committee adopted severed section A of amendment L.003, and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole.

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The amendment made changes to the requirements for the completion of a STEM program to receive a diploma endorsement. Specifically, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 and complete at least four courses in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as determined by the local education provider, in addition to the minimum graduation requirements for the district. The amendment also added district charter high schools to the definition of a local education provider.