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**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0957
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Salazar
Sen. Fields

Date: June 14, 2018
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: TEACHING COMPETENT HISTORY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:**

- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires that schools teach the history of Colorado, and the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans, as part of a social studies curriculum. The bill also creates an advisory board. State expenditures increase annually beginning with FY 2018-19.

**Appropriation
Summary:**

The bill requires an appropriation of \$37,495 to the Colorado Department of Education.

**Fiscal Note
Status:**

The fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1276**

		FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$37,495	\$37,495
Transfers		-	-

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, Colorado’s public schools are required to teach the history and civil government of the United States and of Colorado, including the history, culture and contributions of American Indians, Hispanic Americans, and African Americans. This bill requires that schools also teach the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans.

The bill creates the 15-member History, Culture, and Civil Government in Education Commission and sets the conditions for the commission’s selection and composition. The commission must make recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) related to the learning of history, culture, and civil government. In addition, the commission must:

- assist the CDE and local school boards with the creation of content standards and instructional programs that address the bill's expanded requirements;
- participate in community forums held by school districts related to civic education; and
- make recommendations for revising state education standards to the CDE and the SBE.

Commission members must be appointed no later than August 15, 2018, and serve without compensation; however, members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses. In addition to attending the community forums, the commission is required to meet at least twice annually, beginning in September 2018.

Under current law, each school district board of education is required to convene a community forum to discuss the district's adopted standards for civics at least once every ten years. This bill increases the frequency for these community forums to at least once every two years.

State Revenue

The bill allows CDE to accept gifts, grants, and donations, although no source or amount of private donations has been identified. Gifts and donations are exempt from TABOR revenue limits.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures to the CDE by \$37,495 annually, beginning in FY 2017-18. Specific costs are detailed in Table 1 and include commission meeting costs, and travel costs for members to attend community forums.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 18-1276**

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Colorado Department of Education		
Commissioner Travel - community forums	\$33,525	\$33,525
Commissioner Travel - commission meetings	\$3,970	\$3,970
Total Cost	\$37,495	\$37,495

Travel costs. Commission members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable travel costs to commission meetings and community forums. The fiscal note estimates \$33,525 per year in commissioner travel to community forums and \$3,970 per year in travel to commission meetings, assuming that the full commission meets twice annually, and each member attends six school district community forums each year (15 commissioners X mileage, lodging, and per diem for two commission meetings and up to six community forums annually).

Administrative workload. The bill increases the CDE's administrative workload and costs to coordinate the commission's meetings. This fiscal note assumes 16-20 hours of staff time for each commission meeting, including preparation, staffing the event, and compiling the commission's recommendations. Assuming two required meetings annually, this implies a minimum workload increase of 40 hours annually. This small increase in workload does not require an additional appropriation.

School District Impact

The bill requires that school districts hold community forums on content standards in civics at least every three years. This significantly increases costs and workload for school district boards of education. The costs of holding a community forum vary among school districts, although a large school district reported that it costs approximately \$2,400 to hold a community forum, including staff preparation and participation, reporting, and logistics. While the current frequency of these forums also varies across districts, holding additional forums will drive increased costs.

To the extent that more frequent community forums compel school districts to modify standards for civics and social studies education, additional expenses may also be incurred to update curriculum products and train staff.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on May 3, 2018.

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, this bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$37,495 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education
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School Districts

Higher Education