



## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# FISCAL NOTE

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 18-0318	<b>Date:</b> February 7, 2018
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b> Sen. Merrifield; Priola Rep. Pettersen; Wilson	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate Education
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**Bill Topic:** ALIGN EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>minimal</i> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government ( <i>minimal</i> )
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill renames the School-Readiness Quality Improvement Program and updates application requirements for early childhood councils to apply for funding. The bill will minimally increase state and local government workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.

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### Summary of Legislation

This bill renames the School-Readiness Quality Improvement Program to the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (Colorado Shines). It updates application requirements for early childhood councils applying for quality improvement funding, and funding through the Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability Grant Program. The bill also eliminates obsolete language and aligns statutory provisions concerning grant programs and early childhood councils.

### Background

Colorado Shines, also known as the School-Readiness Quality Rating and Improvement System, gives grant money and funds to early childhood councils to support programs that help children under the age of five prepare for school. It is housed in the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS). Early childhood councils are established locally and charged with developing and implementing childhood school readiness programs. Early childhood councils are awarded funding through the Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Fund, which is funded through the federal Childcare Development Fund. Colorado Shines also awards grants through the Colorado Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability Grant Program to improve quality in infant and toddler care, especially for children living in poverty. Colorado Shines is also charged with measuring the quality of services provided by an early childhood education program.

**State Expenditures**

This bill increases workload in the DHS and the Office of Information Technology (OIT) by a minimal amount. The bill updates the measures used by Colorado Shines to track the level of preparedness and quality of services of early childhood councils, and updates the application procedures for grant funding. OIT must update online systems to reflect these changes. These changes will result in a minimal increase of workload for the affected departments and can be accomplished with existing appropriations.

**Local Government**

This bill increases workload for local governments participating in early childhood councils to increase the frequency of reporting to the DHS from once every three years to annually. Workload will also increase for early childhood councils to prepare grant applications in line with changes under the bill. The workload impact to local governments will be minimal.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Information Technology

Education  
School Districts

Human Services