



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 19-1116

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0108
Prime Sponsors: Rep. McKean

Date: February 5, 2019
Bill Status: House Education
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram | 303-866-3561
Josh.Abram@state.co.us

Bill Topic: HUNTER EDUCATION COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

The bill authorizes a local education provider to offer a hunter education course. The bill increases state workload and school district revenue and expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note is provided pursuant to Joint Rule 22 (b) (2) and reflects strike-below Amendment HB1116_L.001.

Summary of Legislation

The bill, with strike-below amendment L.001, permits, but does not require that a local education provider (LEP) offer a hunter education course as an elective to seventh grade students, as long as the LEP:

- enters into an agreement with an individual or entity to provide the hunter education course at no cost to the LEP or to the enrolled students; and
- receives gifts, grants, or private donations in an amount sufficient enough to pay the cost of a hunter education course.

A hunter education course offered by an LEP must satisfy the same requirements as courses certified by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the Department of Natural Resources, and must be conducted by a certified instructor. The course is not required to include hands-on activities, but if hands-on activities are offered, students must receive parental permission to participate. The CPW may accept completion of a hunter education course at an LEP toward meeting the requirement to obtain a certificate of hunter education.

Background

Colorado law requires that anyone born on or after January 1, 1949, complete an approved hunter education course before applying for or buying a Colorado hunting license. Colorado Parks and Wildlife hunter education courses are led by certified volunteer hunter education instructors and/or

agency staff, and are offered throughout Colorado year round. Classes are intended to teach hunters to be safe, legal and responsible, and cover wildlife management, wildlife identification, ethics, laws and regulations, and firearms safety and handling.

The hunter education course offered by the CPW is either classroom-based, or available online. The online version is approximately \$25 per student. CPW has also prepared a course materials teaching kit and five-piece set of inert firearms (non firing) for use in the hands-on portion of the course. The teaching kit is approximately \$200; the inert firearms are approximately \$2,500 for a set of five.

The course consists of 10 hours of class time over two days, a written test, and an optional live fire exercise. The course is designed to meet the standards of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). Because the division's course meets IHEA standards, the hunter education certification card is accepted as valid in every other state and country that allows hunting and follows IHEA standards and practices.

State Expenditures

The bill requires that all hunter education courses offered by an LEP be taught by an instructor that has been certified by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It is unknown how many currently certified instructors will be required, or which school districts or public schools will choose to offer the course. The CPW does not typically charge to certify instructors, but does incur costs designed to offset the trainees' expense to participate, including catering, class materials, and travel expenses, estimated to average about \$300 per participant.

The bill creates some additional demand for additional trained and certified instructors to conduct hunter education courses, which minimally increases cash funded state expenditures in the CPW. Due to the permissive nature of the bill, the increased demand for certified instructors is assumed low and the bill does not require additional appropriations to the CPW.

School District Impact

In order to offer a hunter education course, a school or district must enter into a cooperative agreement with an individual or entity that is certified to deliver the courses, and also secure sufficient gifts, grants, or private donations to pay all costs of offering the course.

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 Natural Resources School Districts