



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 19-1186

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 19-0852	Date:	February 21, 2019
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. McLachlan Sen. Bridges; Cooke	Bill Status:	House Education
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Bill Topic: SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECK CLARIFICATION

Summary of Fiscal Impact: **No fiscal impact.** The bill expands options for pre-service teachers and other school employees to obtain fingerprints that can be used in a criminal history background check.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, applicants for employment in school districts are required to submit a copy of their fingerprints in order to have a fingerprint-based criminal history background check conducted by law enforcement prior to an offer of employment. Criminal history checks are also conducted for individuals seeking teacher licensure from the state, for pre-service teachers gaining experience in public schools, and in some circumstances, for current school employees. These background check requirements occur in several different sections of state law.

This bill harmonizes each section of statute related to a fingerprint-based criminal history background check for education professionals to allow individuals uniform options for obtaining the fingerprints. In all instances, this bill allows for fingerprints to be obtained by:

- a qualified law enforcement agency;
- an authorized employee (and must be notarized); or
- any third-party vendor approved by the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI).

At the request of a school, a law enforcement agency must take the fingerprints of an applicant or employee if an approved third-party vendor is not operating within 20 miles of the school within the law enforcement agency's jurisdiction. A school employee may use any fingerprinting equipment that meets the 500 PPI standards established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

The bill will not change the total number of fingerprints submitted to the CBI to conduct criminal history background checks for education professionals; therefore, no change in state, local government, or school district revenue, expenditures, or workload is anticipated. For this reason, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Personnel

Education
Public Safety

Municipalities