



Legislative
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FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0759	Date: July 19, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez; Buentello Sen. Gonzales	Bill Status: Signed into Law Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram 303-866-3561 Josh.Abram@state.co.us

Bill Topic: INCLUSION OF AMERICAN MINORITIES IN TEACHING CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

The bill requires that schools teach the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans and the interconnected nature of minority communities as part of the social studies curriculum. The bill also creates an advisory board. State expenditures increase beginning with FY 2019-20.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2019-20, the bill requires an appropriation of \$37,495.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1192**

		FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	State Education Fund	\$37,495	\$37,495
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

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 American, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals within specified minority groups, the intersectionality of significant social and cultural features within these communities, and the contributions and persecution of religious minorities.

The bill creates the 15-member History, Culture, Social Contributions, 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 teaching 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.

The commission is required to meet at least twice annually, beginning in September 2019. Members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses.

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 six years.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures to the CDE by \$37,495 annually, beginning in FY 2019-20. Specific costs are detailed in Table 2 and include commission meeting costs, and travel costs for members to attend community forums.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 19-1192

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
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.

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 workload increase of 40 hours annually. This 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 every six years. This increases costs and workload for school district boards of education. The costs of holding a community forum vary among school districts, although one 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.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and it took effect on May 28, 2019.

State Appropriations

Consistent with this final fiscal note, for FY 2019-20, the bill includes an appropriation of \$37,495 from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Law	Governor School Districts	Higher Education
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