Bill Topic: HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD ACT

Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government
- Statutory Public Entity

No fiscal impact. This bill requires the Department of Human Services to run a public grassroots campaign and put on a series of workshops focused on increasing the number of early childhood workers and to raise awareness on what young children need to know when entering kindergarten. This bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Education Committee. The bill was requested by Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement a statewide grassroots campaign to raise awareness of and implement activities for current and prospective early childhood providers in each county related to:

- what is expected from early childhood education;
- what a child is expected to know by kindergarten; and
- what resources are available for early childhood education.

The bill also requires the DHS, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education and Early Childhood Councils, to put on two types of workshops throughout the state: multicounty workshops focused on professional development in the early childhood education field and regional workshops focused on how to open a childcare center or preschool. The multicounty workshops must run through the 2021-22 academic year and the regional workshops must run from May through August 2022.
Background

Currently, the DHS is working with Early Childhood Councils, Family Resource Centers, and other state and local family caregiver networks to share and support the use of best practices to make sure children under the age of 5 are school ready. This work is funded through the federal Preschool Development Grant. In 2019, the DHS used the grant to employ a communications firm to research and develop how to get families and early childhood caregivers access to information through a "no wrong door" approach.

The DHS is also working with locally based licensing specialists to offer training to providers, has contracted with Early Childhood Councils to provide quality-improvement training, and is planning regional events with Early Childhood Councils to implement a national train-the-trainer model related to early childhood business practices.

Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

Based on the outreach events discussed above that the DHS is currently implementing, this bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact. While the bill sets forth parameters on information to be provided on early childhood education, the fiscal note assumes that the requirements for grassroots outreach and workshops can be met through the DHS's current initiatives and work with local organizations; therefore, the bill is assumed to have no effect on state and local government revenue and expenditures.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Education   Human Services   Information Technology