



## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# Fiscal Note

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<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 22-0400	<b>Date:</b>	February 16, 2022
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. McKean; Mullica Sen. Woodward	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House Agriculture
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**Bill Topic:** PUBLIC SCHOOL HUNTER EDUCATION 7TH GRADE COURSE

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**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 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.

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**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required

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

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## Summary of Legislation

The bill allows a local education provider (LEP) to 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 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 any costs that arise from providing the course.

A hunter education course must satisfy the same requirements as courses certified by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the Department of Natural Resources, and must be conducted by a CPW-certified instructor. The course need not 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 completion of an approved hunter education course before obtaining a Colorado hunting license. CPW hunter education courses are led by certified volunteer hunter education instructors and/or agency staff, and are offered throughout Colorado year round. The CPW course is either classroom-based or available online. The course consists of 10 hours of class time, 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. CPW has also prepared a course materials teaching kit and five-piece set of inert (non-firing) firearms 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.

## State Expenditures

The bill may create some additional demand for trained and certified instructors to conduct hunter education courses, which minimally increases cash funded state expenditures in the CPW. The bill requires that hunter education courses be taught by an instructor that has been certified by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It is unknown how many 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 for the certification, including catering, class materials, and travel expenses, estimated to average about \$300 per participant. 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.

## School District

In order to offer a hunter education course, a school or district must enter into a cooperative agreement with an individual or entity certified to deliver the course. Although the entity must agree to provide the course at no cost, schools choosing to offer the course may secure grants or private donations to pay any fixed costs, such as obtaining CPW training materials or other costs to offer the course.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Natural Resources

School Districts