



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-1154	Date:	April 15, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. McLachlan; Herod Sen. Bridges; Simpson	Bill Status:	House Education
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Bill Topic: **FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill reestablishes the Federal Indian Boarding School Research Program in History Colorado. It increases state expenditures through FY 2026-27.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$333,334 to the Department of Higher Education for use by History Colorado.

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

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1444**

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Revenue		-	-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$333,334	\$333,333	\$333,333
	Centrally Appropriated	\$35,190	\$35,190	\$35,190
	Total Expenditures	\$368,524	\$368,523	\$368,523
	Total FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Summary of Legislation

The bill reestablishes the Federal Indian Boarding School Research Program in History Colorado to research and make recommendations to promote understanding of the abuse and deaths that occurred at federal Indian boarding schools in Colorado that were not located on an Indian reservation. The program continues through December 31, 2027.

In consultation with the tribal governments, History Colorado is required to facilitate research on the events, physical and emotional abuse, and deaths that occurred at the federal Indian boarding school at Fort Lewis, including the victimization of families of the youth forced to attend the school, and the intergenerational impacts of the abuse.

History Colorado is required to provide quarterly updates to the Commission of Indian Affairs. Preliminary recommendations on the best care and memorialization are due to the commission by November 8, 2025. Final recommendations to the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the General Assembly are due by May 10, 2027.

The bill requires the General Assembly to appropriate \$1,000,000 spread equally in FY 2024-25, FY 2025-26, and FY 2026-27.

Background

[House Bill 22-1327](#) initially created this program from May 2022 to December 2023. Its final report is available online at [History Colorado's website](#).

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state expenditures in History Colorado by \$368,500 annually from FY 2024-25 through and FY 2026-27, paid from the General Fund. Costs are detailed in Table 2 and explained below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 24-1444

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
History Colorado			
Personal Services	\$130,019	\$130,019	\$130,019
Operating Expenses	\$22,359	\$22,359	\$22,359
Capital Outlay Costs	\$13,340	\$13,339	\$13,339
Research and Travel Expenses	\$167,616	\$167,616	\$167,616
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$35,190	\$35,190	\$35,190
Total Cost	\$368,524	\$368,523	\$368,523
Total FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

History Colorado—staff. History Colorado requires 2.0 FTE, as specified in the bill, to conduct the required research, including a research assistant and a tribal and American Indian/Alaska Native communications specialist. These positions begin in July 2024 and end in June 2027. Operating and capital costs are included and align with History Colorado’s standard costs.

Research and travel expenses. History Colorado will consult with 33 tribes and conduct listening sessions with approximately 50 tribal representatives annually. Mileage or flight, per diem lodging and transportation costs will be approximately \$167,616 annually to conduct the necessary interviews.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$333,334 to the Department of Higher Education, and 2.0 FTE, for use by History Colorado.

State and Local Government Contacts

Governor's Office
Information Technology

History Colorado

Human Services

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).