



**Legislative Council Staff**

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**Final Fiscal Note**

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 24-1154	<b>Date:</b>	July 18, 2024
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. McLachlan; Herod Sen. Bridges; Simpson	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Signed into Law
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**Bill Topic: FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

<b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b>	<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 and includes an appropriation of \$333,334 to the Department of Higher Education for use by History Colorado.

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

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

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

## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill reestablishes the Indian Boarding School Research Program in History Colorado to research and make recommendations to promote understanding of the abuse and deaths that occurred at 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, including oral histories, listening sessions, and research on artifacts, on boarding schools' impact on American Indian communities. History Colorado must make recommendations on memorializing the boarding school sites.

History Colorado is required to provide quarterly updates to the Commission of Indian Affairs and share any recommendations with the commission before they are made public. 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.

Any third-party that enters into an agreement with either History Colorado or the Commission of Indian Affairs to conduct research on these boarding schools must demonstrate experience working with American Indians and an understanding of intergenerational trauma.

The bill establishes the American Indian Steering Committee within History Colorado that is made up of American Indian communities in Colorado, including those who are descendants of boarding school attendees. The committee must advise History Colorado on issues related to the school sites and other efforts related to the boarding schools. Members serve without compensation and without reimbursement of travel expenses.

The bill requires the General Assembly to appropriate \$333,333 per year in FY 2024-25, FY 2025-26, and FY 2026-27 for this work. Any unspent money may be used in future years without an additional appropriation.

## **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
<b>History Colorado</b>			
Personal Services	\$130,019	\$130,019	\$130,019
Operating Expenses	\$22,359	\$22,359	\$22,359
Capital Outlay Costs	\$13,340	\$-	\$-
Research and Travel Expenses	\$167,616	\$180,995	\$180,995
Centrally Appropriated Costs <sup>1</sup>	\$35,190	\$35,190	\$35,190
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$368,524</b>	<b>\$368,523</b>	<b>\$368,523</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>2.0 FTE</b>	<b>2.0 FTE</b>	<b>2.0 FTE</b>

<sup>1</sup> Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**History Colorado.** 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 was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2024, and takes effect on August 7, 2024, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$333,333 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

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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](#).