



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 20-0388  
**Prime Sponsors:**

**Date:** October 24, 2019  
**Bill Status:** Bill Request  
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**Bill Topic:** **EXCUSED ABSENCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:** **No fiscal impact.** The bill requires that local boards of education update attendance policies to include mental health issues as acceptable excuses for student absences from school.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the interim bill requested by the School Safety Committee.

## Summary of Legislation

Under current law, locally elected boards of education must have a written attendance policy for excusing a student for an extended or temporary absence from public school. This bill requires that the attendance policy must allow excuses for an absence to include behavioral health disorders or concerns.

## Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

Updating attendance policies to conform with the bill's requirement is not anticipated to change the revenue, expenditures, or workload of school districts. Under current law, attendance policies must provide for excused absences due to physical, mental, or emotional disability. This bill's requirement to ensure that policies allow for excused absence due to behavioral health disorders is not anticipated to significantly change district policies or practice, and is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

## Effective Date

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

## State and Local Government Contacts

Education                      School Districts