



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB17-1022

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0206
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Salazar

Date: January 17, 2017
Bill Status: House Education
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: TEACHING COMPETENT HISTORY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
General Fund		
State Expenditures	<u>\$37,495</u>	<u>\$37,495</u>
General Fund	37,495	37,495
Appropriation Required: \$37,495 General Fund - Colorado Department of Education - (FY2017-18).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing expenditure increase.		

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, Colorado’s public schools are required to teach the history and civil government of the United States, including the history, culture and contributions of American Indians, Hispanic Americans, and African Americans. This bill requires that schools also teach the history and civil government of the state of Colorado, and the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans.

The bill creates the 15-member History, Culture, and Civil Government in Education Commission (commission) and sets the conditions for the commission’s selection and composition. The commission must make recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) related to the learning of history, culture, and civil government. In addition, the commission must:

- assist the CDE and local school boards with the creation of content standards and instructional programs that address the bill's expanded requirements;
- participate in community forums held by school districts related to civic education; and
- make recommendations for revising state education standards to the CDE and the SBE.

Commission members must be appointed no later than August 15, 2017, and serve without compensation; however, members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses. In addition to attending the community forums, the commission is required to meet at least twice annually, beginning in September 2017.

Under current law, each school district board of education is required to periodically convene a community forum to discuss the district's adopted standards for civics. These forums must be conducted not less than once every 10 years. This bill requires that boards of education convene community forums not less than once every two years.

State Revenue

The bill allows CDE to accept gifts, grants, and donations, although no sources or amounts have been identified. Gifts and donations are exempt from TABOR revenue limits.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures to the CDE by \$37,495 annually, beginning in FY 2017-18. Specific costs are detailed in Table 1 and include commission meeting costs, as well as travel costs for members to attend community forums.

Cost Components	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Commissioner Travel - community forums	\$33,525	\$33,525
Commissioner Travel - commission meetings	3,970	3,970
TOTAL	\$37,495	\$37,495

Travel costs. Commission members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable travel costs to commission meetings and community forums. The fiscal note estimates \$33,525 per year in commissioner travel to community forums and \$3,970 per year in travel to commission meetings, assuming that the full commission meets twice annually, and each member attends six school district community forums each year (15 commissioners X mileage, lodging, and per diem for two commission meetings and up to six community forums annually).

Administrative workload. The bill increases the CDE's administrative workload and costs to coordinate the commission's meetings. This fiscal note assumes 16-20 hours of staff time for each commission meeting, including preparation, staffing the event, and compiling the commission's recommendations. Assuming two required meetings annually, this implies a minimum workload increase of 40 hours annually. This small increase in workload does not require an additional appropriation.

School District Impact

The bill requires that school districts hold community forums on content standards in civics every two years. This significantly increases costs and workload for school district boards of education. The costs of holding a community forum vary among school districts, although a large school district reported that it costs approximately \$2,400 to hold a community forum, including staff preparation and participation, reporting, and logistics. While the current frequency of these forums also varies across districts, holding additional forums will drive increased costs. To the extent that more frequent community forums compel school districts to modify standards for civics and social studies education, additional expenses may be incurred to update curriculum products and train staff.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2017-18, this bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$39,495 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Governor

Higher Education

School Districts