



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

HB 19-1111

# FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 19-0669  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Baisley

**Date:** January 22, 2019  
**Bill Status:** House SVMA  
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**Bill Topic:** TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR COLORADO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>minimal</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires the state Attorney General's office to provide a neutrality training to members of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. Beginning in FY 2019-20, the bill minimally increases state workloads on an ongoing basis.

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

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

## Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the state Attorney General's office to organize and provide an annual training of at least one hour in length to members of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission regarding the state's obligation of religious neutrality and consistency when considering claims that involve freedom of speech or free exercise of religion. The annual training must be provided no later than November 15 of each year beginning in 2019.

## Background

**Colorado Civil Rights Commission.** The Colorado Civil Rights Commission meets monthly. Pursuant to the Colorado-Anti Discrimination Act, the commission:

- reviews appeals of cases investigated and dismissed by the Colorado Civil Rights Division;
- reaches out to various communities to provide awareness of civil rights issues and protections;
- conducts hearings involving illegal discriminatory practices;
- initiates investigations regarding discrimination issues with public policy implications;
- advises the Governor and General Assembly regarding policies and legislation that address discrimination; and
- adopts and amends rules and regulations that provide standards and guidelines regarding the state statutes prohibiting discrimination.

*Membership.* The seven-member commission is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Two commissioners represent the business community; two represent state or local governments; and three represent the public. At least four members must be members of groups who have been historically discriminated against because of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or ancestry, or because of marital status, religion, or age. No more than three members of the commission may be affiliated with the same political party, no more than six members may be affiliated with a major political party, and commissioners may not have changed their affiliation in the immediate two years preceding an appointment. If the Senate rejects a Governor appointment to the commission, the individual is deemed ineligible to hold the office for two years.

## **State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2019-20, the bill will minimally increase workloads for the Department of Law and the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The Department of Law currently provides general counsel to the commission. It will develop and provide the training, modifying it annually as needed. The training is expected to take place in concert with existing commission trainings or during the course of the commission's normal business. These additional legal services costs will be covered by the Department of Regulatory Agencies' existing legal services appropriation.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Law                      Regulatory Agencies