



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1111

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0805
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Geitner

Date: January 29, 2020
Bill Status: House SVMA
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Bill Topic: PARENT AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School District

The bill allows parents or guardians of school children to petition their local board of education to implement specific reforms. The bill increases workload for the Colorado Department of Education and local school districts on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill permits an eligible parent or group of parents to request that a locally elected school board of education implement specified reforms. An eligible parent is the legal guardian of a student in a low performing school, or of a child that is enrolled in a school that matriculates to a low performing school. A low performing school is one that has been required to adopt a priority improvement plan or a priority turnaround plan in the state's school accountability system for two consecutive years.

An eligible parent or group of parents may circulate a petition and submit it to a local board of education, or in the case of a charter school authorized by the Charter School Institute (CSI), the petition is submitted to the CSI board. Petitions may request one or more reforms, such as adopting and implementing student discipline procedures, or adopting and using alternative or supplementary curricula. Petitions may also request any of the current remedies available to the State Board of Education (SBE) when a low performing school does not improve for five consecutive years. These include replacing the school's staff and faculty, requiring that the school be turned over to third party managers, converting the school into a charter school, or closing the school. Parent petitioners may identify a desired third party manager or preferred charter school operator in the petition.

The bill sets minimum requirements for valid petitions, signature requirements, and deadlines for submission. If a local school district rejects the validity of a petition due to insufficient signatures, parents may appeal to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for a recount. Once a petition is determined to meet minimum requirements, the local school board or CSI board must consider

the petition at a regularly scheduled public meeting, at which time petitioners may choose to withdraw or amend their petition. If the petition is not withdrawn, the board must vote to approve or disapprove the requested reforms. If approved, the board must create a plan and implement the reforms. If the board votes to not approve, the petitioners may appeal this decision to the State Board of Education (SBE). Petitioners may also initiate a recall election of the members of the local school board.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload for the CDE to update handbooks, websites and other supporting materials, and to modify training related to school accountability laws. These activities do not require additional appropriations.

When a local school districts rejects a petition, the CDE may be asked to perform recounts. If a local board of education fails to adopt requested reforms, the SBE may be asked to consider the petition on appeal. These activities are expected to be infrequent and do not require additional appropriations.

School District

When enough parents submit a valid petition requiring specified reforms, school district workload and expenditures increase to consider and potentially adopt those reforms. If parent requested reforms are adopted, school districts have an increase in workload and expenditures to implement the required changes. This expenditure is not estimated and depends on the types of reforms adopted.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education School Districts