



Please **SUPPORT** SB 17-60

Relocating the Colorado Student Leaders Institute to the Department of Higher Education

Bill Sponsors: Senator Nancy Todd and Representative Jim Wilson

SB 17-60 is part of the 2017 Legislative Agenda for the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE). This technical bill simply relocates the administration of the Colorado Student Leaders Institute (COSLI), created by 15-290, from the Lieutenant Governor's Office to DHE.

WHAT IS COSLI?

Colorado Student Leaders Institute, an affiliate of the National Conference of Governor's Schools, is a **four-week summer residential immersion collegiate academic experience** intended to support and inspire students as they transition from higher school to the rigor and freedom offered of a college or university setting. COSLI seeks to reinforce the importance of civic engagement, entrepreneurship, responsibility, accountability, ethics and integrity in the rising generation of American leaders.

Participants (1) **earn three hours of college credit**; (2) complete **two high school capstones**, including a Colorado centric National History Day Colorado project; and, (3) are **given a Colorado centric civic challenge** to be completed with the four week time period –creating and executing a business plan during the twenty-eight day program, donating a percentage of their profit to a Colorado non-profit; and the final reports are given to state and business leaders at the end of the session. Nationally, trends show that **up to 90% of students** who attend a governor's school program **complete a 4-year degree on time**.

COSLI BY THE NUMBERS – 2015

- **72 students** participated and received 3 hours of college credit.
- **67%** were free and reduced lunch or would be first generation post-secondary students
- Focused on **two majors** – STEAM and International Social Studies.
- All but one student received an **81% or above** on a college rigor rubric.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE NEEDED?

- DHE has the expertise to oversee this program, the content of which dovetails with our key competencies and focus.
- This is a **technical change only**; no other aspect of the program or funding is being changed.
- **When originally established**, the Lieutenant Governor was also the Executive Director for Higher Education. This is no longer the case.
- The **Joint Budget Committee raised the question**, during the JBC hearings, of the appropriateness of this program being housed in the Lt. Governor's office and it was agreed that it should be moved.

The Department of Higher Education **urges your support** for SB 17-60.



For more information, please contact Kachina Weaver, Chief Policy Officer for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, at (303) 883-7076 or kachina.weaver@dhe.state.co.us

