

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note***NO FISCAL IMPACT**

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 07-0513**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Merrifield  
Sen. Windels**Date:** January 13, 2007**Bill Status:** House Education**Fiscal Analyst:** Harry Zeid (303-866-4753)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF STUDENT ASSESSMENTS.**Summary of Assessment**

This bill directs the Governor to appoint, and the Department of Education to convene, a new technical advisory panel to assist the department and the State Board of Education in developing a longitudinal growth model to measure the academic growth of students. The panel would include state and national experts on the measurement of longitudinal growth for accountability purposes. The bill establishes requirements and a timeline for development and implementation of the model. No later than July 1, 2007, and each July 1, thereafter, the department is required to calculate adequate longitudinal growth for each student and each school.

The technical advisory panel would develop a new method to identify schools that demonstrate the highest rate of academic growth for purposes of the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards. Until new rules are adopted, awards would continue to be based on the rules existing as of January 1, 2007. The bill also repeals the requirement in current law that a portion of the in-year cost recovery from the use of unique student identifiers be used to fund the calculation of academic growth of students. The bill becomes effective upon signature of the Governor.

**Background.** Section (1)(f) of the bill states that the bill can be implemented using the existing resources and FTE appropriated to the Department of Education for FY 2006-07 for development and implementation of a longitudinal growth model. For FY 2006-07, the Department of Education was appropriated \$277,124 GF and 3.0 FTE for the purpose of Longitudinal Analyses of Student Assessment Results. It is anticipated that currently, the department will not spend all of the money appropriated to it for longitudinal analysis during FY 2006-07 and that the department, without the bill, will revert more than the amount required to accomplish the bill's additional requirements.

**HB07-1048.** Two areas have been identified that will require a total of up to \$45,000 in additional expenditures for the department during FY 2006-07, the current fiscal year. These are expenditures to support the technical advisory panel and costs to revise the longitudinal growth model. Since the bill authorizes a new use of money previously appropriated and available to the Department of Education in the current fiscal year, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

- **Technical Advisory Panel.** The bill creates a technical advisory panel that includes state and national experts on the measurement of longitudinal growth for accountability purposes. Assuming a panel of 5 experts that meets 4 times with an average costs for travel and expenses of \$1,000 per member per meeting, expenditures related to the technical advisory panel

could be as high as \$20,000. These estimates are based on actual costs experienced by the Department of Education for its CSAP technical advisory panel, which is comprised of members with similar levels of expertise.

- ***Revisions to the Longitudinal Growth Model.*** The bill also requires the department to contract with an experienced public or private entity to revise the existing longitudinal growth model that was developed prior to January 1, 2007, 15 days after receipt of the technical advisory panel's recommendations. The contractor will have 60 days after being chosen to adapt an existing mixed-effects statistical model for use in Colorado. The model will calculate students' annual academic growth and calculate each student's and each school's academic growth in reading, writing, and mathematics. Assuming that the department can contract with a vendor under these time constraints, the estimated cost of this project is as much as \$25,000. It should be noted that contracts over \$25,000 must go through the state's RFP process and will require more than the prescribed 15 days to obtain a contract.

### **Departments Contacted**

Education      Governor's Office