


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 10-1037
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Newell
 Rep. Solano

Date: April 21, 2010
Bill Status: Senate Health and Human Services
Fiscal Analyst: David Porter (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING CREATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue Cash Funds Early Childhood Leadership Commission Fund	Potential Gifts, Grants, and Donations		
State Expenditures Cash Funds Early Childhood Leadership Commission Fund	\$ 1.3 million		
FTE Position Change			
Effective Date: August 11, 2010, assuming the General Assembly adjourns May 12, 2010, as scheduled and no referendum petition is filed.			
Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011: None required.			
Local Government Impact: None.			

* *State revenue and expenditures are conditional, contingent on support from federal funds and gifts, grants, and donations. Expenditures are based on anticipated receipt of \$1.3 million in federal moneys.*

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates in state law the Early Childhood Leadership Commission in the Governor's Office and specifies its membership, purpose, and duties. The commission consists of up to 31 members appointed by the governor from several state agencies, nonprofit groups, other governmental entities, and members of the public and business community. Members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses from the newly created Early Childhood Leadership Commission Fund. All commission expenses are paid from federal moneys allocated by the governor and gifts, grants, and donations.

The purpose of the commission is to advance a comprehensive service delivery system for children from birth to eight years old. The commission has the following duties with respect to children's services and supports:

- P provide the General Assembly with advice and recommendations regarding the creation of a unified data system and the sharing of common data;

- P identify the opportunities for and barriers against alignment of standards, rules, and policies for programs;
- P consider and recommend waivers from state regulations on behalf of early childhood councils;
- P develop methods to use interagency data in decision-making;
- P ensure adequate data system infrastructure; and
- P develop recommendations for professional development and career advancement for people working with young children.

The commission is to coordinate with a number of other existing boards, commissions, and councils in developing its recommendations. On or before January 31, 2011, the commission shall present its findings in a joint session with the education and human service committees of the General Assembly and the governor. These findings may include recommended legislation.

Background

Executive Order B 2010-002 created the Governor's Early Childhood Leadership Commission. The commission convened for its first meeting in March 2010. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is expected to provide Colorado with \$1.3 million in funding to support the commission. This bill simply codifies the commission in statute with a few minor changes.

State Revenue

The bill allows the governor to seek, accept, and spend federal moneys and other gifts, grants, and donations to support the commission's work. This fiscal note assumes that the Governor's Office will require at least \$1.3 million in federal funds to support the commission. Actual spending may vary from this amount. Although funding for the commission is anticipated from the U.S. Department of Human Services, to date, no moneys have been received. Additionally, no gifts, grants, or donations have been identified at this time.

State Expenditures

State expenditures to support the commission are approximately \$1.3 million, split between FY 2010-11, FY 2011-12, and FY 2012-13. The degree to which these expenditures will be incurred is conditional and depends upon actual receipt of funds. In the event that no funds become available, this analysis assumes that the commission will meet and develop recommendations, but it will not have as many resources at its disposal. This fiscal note acknowledges that department staff time to participate in the committee is staff time taken from other priorities; however, since departments are already required to participate in the commission formed through the executive order, this analysis assumes that these costs will be met within existing appropriations.

At this time, commission expenditures have not been fully detailed but are expected to be incurred for the following:

- P **Staffing.** An executive director and policy analyst may assist the commission in organization, research, and policy development.
- P **Meeting Costs.** Meeting costs may include member expense reimbursement, meeting materials, and facilities. If subcommittees are formed, costs may be applied to these.
- P **Department Costs.** Department support to the commission must be provided within existing appropriations. However, if the commission needs department input, it may provide additional funding to offset any costs.
- P **Contract assistance.** The commission may require input from consultants.
- P **Information Technology and Data Systems.** The commission may have information technology costs to begin integrating program data and computer systems.

Costs are paid from the continuously appropriated Early Childhood Leadership Commission Fund and cannot be paid from General Fund moneys. The bill stipulates that departments are only required to support to the commission as possible within existing appropriations. Implementation of commission recommendations may result in costs beyond those identified in this fiscal note. It is assumed that these costs will be paid from remaining federal moneys, through the budget process, or within future legislation.

Departments Contacted

Governor's Office
Human Services
Public Health and Environment
Higher Education

Labor
Health Care Policy and Financing
Education
Office of Information Technology