

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE and LOCAL
CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 10-0384	Date: January 25, 2010
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Scanlan Sen. Gibbs	Bill Status: House Education
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING MEASURES TO IMPROVE COLORADO YOUTHS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS GRANT PROGRAM.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
State Revenue*		
Cash Funds		
Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program Fund	\$101,725	\$101,725
State Environmental Education Fund	11,777	
State Expenditures*		
Cash Funds		
Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program Fund	\$101,725	\$101,725
State Environmental Education Fund	11,777	
FTE Position Change	0.1 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

* State revenue and expenditures are **conditional**, contingent on support from public or private gifts, grants, and donations.

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates a new grant program in the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and requires the State Board of Education to adopt a state plan for environmental education.

Subject to the receipt of sufficient money from public and private donations, the DNR will provide grants to fund opportunities for young people to engage in outdoor activities. The program is targeted at metropolitan and low-income youth. The department will administer the grant program, adopt selection criteria, develop an application process, and distribute any moneys received.

The bill creates the 5- member Colorado Kids Outdoors Advisory Council to assist the department in the administration of the grant program. Members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the appointing authority for a two-year term.

The Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program Fund is created to receive public and private donations for the outdoor grant program. The DNR is permitted to use two percent of moneys annually credited to the fund to offset indirect costs. Money in the fund is continuously appropriated. No later than February 1, 2011, and each year thereafter, the department must report to the General Assembly the amounts received from public and private sources, amounts awarded, and grant recipients and activities. The program is repealed July 1, 2020.

The bill creates the State Environmental Education Fund and gives the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) continuous spending authority. Subject to the receipt of sufficient money from public or private donations, the State Board of Education will adopt a state plan for environmental education that:

- ▶ addresses environmental education in public schools;
- ▶ provides professional development for educators; and
- ▶ ensures compliance with requirements imposed by federal rule or law.

State Revenue

The bill allows both the DNR and the CDE to seek, accept, and spend federal moneys and other donations to implement the bill. Based on the expenditures described in this fiscal note, the DNR will need to obtain at least ***\$101,725 in federal funds or private donations in both FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12*** to create an effective grant program and the CDE will need to obtain at least ***\$11,777 in federal funds or private donations in FY 2010-11*** to develop a state plan for environmental education. Actual collections may vary greatly from these amounts depending on the amount raised by the departments. To date, no specific revenue has been identified.

State Expenditures

Meeting the requirements of the bill is expected to increase state expenditures by ***at least \$113,502 and 0.1 FTE in FY 2010-11, and 101,725 in FY 2011-12***. All costs are ***conditional***, contingent on the receipt of sufficient funding from public and private donations. Actual costs could vary from the amounts identified here, depending on how much each department receives. Estimated costs are for the outdoor grant program and for developing a state plan for environmental education. These costs are displayed in Table 1 and described below.

Table 1. Estimated Expenditures Under HB 10-1131		
Cost Components	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12
<i>Department of Natural Resources</i>		
Colorado Kids Outdoors Grants	\$100,000	\$100,000
Program Administration	1,725	1,725
<i>Colorado Department of Education</i>		
Personal Services	7,477	-
FTE	0.1	0.0
Program Administration	4,300	-
TOTAL	\$113,502	\$101,725

Department of Natural Resources.

Colorado Kids Outdoors Grants - \$100,000. It is anticipated that grant award moneys will comprise the largest cost component of the bill. This fiscal note assumes that at a minimum, a viable grant program will make \$1,000 awards to 100 recipients. Actual award amounts could vary from these assumptions depending on the program finally adopted.

Program Administration - \$1,725. Subject to the receipt of sufficient donations, the department will establish program rules, create application procedures, develop criteria for evaluating applications, award grants, and prepare reports to the legislature. The bill creates a volunteer advisory council to assist the department with these requirements; however, the department will have administrative costs to review applications for compliance with adopted guidelines and prepare them for the council's review. It is assumed that the program will receive three times as many requests as there are funds available. If the department receives 300 applications for 100 awards, a contractor can process applications for \$1,725 (100 hours at \$17.25 per hour).

Colorado Department of Education.

State Plan for Environmental Education - \$11,777 and 0.1 FTE. Subject to the receipt of sufficient donations, the department will develop, and the state board will adopt a state plan for environmental education. This work can be accomplished by content specialists in social sciences and natural sciences working over a four month period. The expected costs for two consultants is \$7,477 and 0.1 FTE. Regional meetings are necessary to gather community input, conduct research, and to prepare the plan for final approval. Travel and printing costs are expected to be \$4,300.

Local Government Impact

Local governments, including special districts and school districts, could receive grant money from the program; however, any award is subject to the actual guidelines developed.

Departments Contacted

Education

Natural Resources

Public Health