

NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 10-0608**Date:** January 31, 2010**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Sandoval
Rep. Solano**Bill Status:** Senate Education**Fiscal Analyst:** David Porter (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING CREATION OF THE "FARM-TO-SCHOOL HEALTHY KIDS ACT", AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM POLICIES.**Summary of Legislation**

This bill creates the 12-member Interagency Farm-to-School Coordination Task Force and specifies its membership and duties. In addition to members with experience in agriculture and school nutrition, the task force includes members from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Department of Agriculture, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

The task force must study, develop, and recommend policies and methods to best implement a farm-to-school program. A farm-to-school program encourages school districts to use local agricultural products to provide healthy food to students. The task force, in developing and recommending farm-to-school program concepts, shall consider the following:

- ▶ farm-to-school pilot programs;
- ▶ funding sources and grants to offset any increased costs of using locally raised products;
- ▶ training for farmers and ranchers to enable them to sell their products to schools; and
- ▶ assistance to school districts and school food services to integrate locally raised products into school meals.

The task force must meet by December 31, 2010, and must report their findings to the Education and Agriculture committees of the General Assembly by April 1, 2013. The task force is repealed on December 31, 2013, following a sunset review. The bill is effective August 11, 2010, assuming the General Assembly adjourns May 12, 2010, as scheduled and no referendum petition is filed.

Assessment

This bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact. The bill does not directly affect state or local government revenue or expenditures, but requiring the participation of personnel from the CDE, CDPHE, and Department of Agriculture will result in less time for other departmental activities. Additionally, the CDE may have costs associated with convening the meeting, although the workload associated with preparing for and participating in task force meetings is not expected to be substantial and can be accomplished within existing appropriations. The bill stipulates that task force members serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

Since this bill creates a task force to identify the components of a food-to-school program, but does not establish one, there are no program implementation costs. Once the task force provides the General Assembly with recommendations for the farm-to-school program, this fiscal note assumes that any costs will be addressed at that time.

Departments Contacted

Education

Agriculture

Public Health and Environment