

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

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0238 Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Priola; Schafer S. Sen. Steadman	Date: February 28, 2011 Bill Status: House Education Fiscal Analyst: Jonathan Senft (303-866-3523)
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TITLE: CONCERNING MEASURES TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF BULLYING IN SCHOOLS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
Cash Funds		
School Bullying Prevention and Education Cash Fund	\$200,000*	\$200,000*
State Expenditures		
General Fund		\$27,020
Cash Funds		
School Bullying Prevention and Education Cash Fund	200,000*	\$200,000*
FTE Position Change	0.3 FTE	0.7 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: See State Appropriations section.		
School District Impact: See School District Impact section.		

* Cash fund revenue and expenditures are **conditional**, contingent on support from federal funds and gifts, grants, and donations.

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates a number of initiatives to deter student behavior known as bullying, defined as expressions – physical, verbal or electronic – intended to coerce, intimidate or harm other students. Specifically, this bill:

- creates a 6-member legislative interim committee to study bully prevention and develop recommendations;
- establishes a grant program in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for bully-prevention programs in schools;
- creates a cash fund to pay for these grants, funded by gifts grants and donations;
- revises a number of district policies concerning student discipline and other student behavior;
- requires teachers to receive training every two years on bully prevention;
- allows sharing of student personal information among school districts and schools, and among institute charter schools and the Charter School Institute (CSI);

- establishes a dress code which encourages school pride and uniformity of dress;
- creates a student survey program querying the severity of bullying at each school; and
- requires charter schools to adopt a bullying prevention policy on or before October 1, 2011, including reporting requirements from the charter schools to the school district or the CSI as applicable.

The grant program and board are scheduled to be repealed in 2016, following a sunset review.

State Revenue

The bill allows the CDE to seek, accept, and spend federal moneys and other gifts, grants, and donations to implement the grant program. Based on the expenditures described in this fiscal note, the CDE will need to obtain at least **\$200,000** per year in federal funds or private donations beginning in FY 2011-12 to establish an effective grant program, although actual collections may vary greatly from this amount. To date, no specific revenue source has been identified.

State Expenditures

A viable bully-prevention grant program is expected to cost **at least \$200,000 per year beginning in FY 2011-12**. These costs will only be incurred if sufficient gifts, grants and donations are obtained. In addition, the interim committee will cost \$27,020 and require 0.4 FTE in FY 2012-13. These costs are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HB 11-1254		
Cost Components	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Personal Services (CDE)	\$20,095	\$18,684
FTE	0.3	0.3
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay	1,696	285
Board Member Reimbursement (11 members * \$187 * 2 Meetings)	4,114	4,114
Grants	174,095	\$176,917
Interim Committee		\$27,020
FTE		0.4
TOTAL	\$200,000	\$227,020

Grants — \$175,000. It is anticipated that grant award moneys will comprise the largest cost component of the bill. The amount of grants from the program is dependent on the amount of funding CDE receives from public sources and from private donations.

Department of Education — \$25,000 and 0.3 FTE. Staff at the department is needed to develop and manage the grant program; support the board in soliciting, evaluating and awarding grants; provide technical assistance to support grantees; and support annual financial reporting. In addition, members of the board are eligible for expense reimbursement.

The bill states that no more than 3 percent of the cash fund may be used for costs incurred in administering the program, which is insufficient for donations of \$200,000. Without sufficient funding from the cash fund, the department will require some other source of support. Donations of about \$3 million would be required to support a full-time staff person within the 3 percent administrative costs cap.

Legislative Interim Committee — \$27,020 and 0.4 FTE in FY 2012-13. The legislature is budgeted each year with resources to support a limited number of interim committees. If this interim committee is not designated by the Legislative Council to be one of the prioritized committees, or if the costs of this interim committee are not included in the budgeted amount, the Legislative Branch will incur additional costs to support the interim committee, as shown in Table 1.

The committee includes six legislators, all of whom are entitled to per diem and reimbursement for expenses. Reimbursement for travel and expenses of legislative members is calculated to cover the cost of travel into the metro area. There will be six meetings of the committee which may be outside of the Denver metro area, and which will incur additional travel costs for overnight accommodations.

Expenditures Not Included

Certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill, rather than in this bill. The costs subject to this policy are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Expenditures Not Included Under HB 11-1254*		
Cost Components	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$2,130	\$2,130
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	833	981
TOTAL	\$2,963	\$3,111

*More information is available at: <http://colorado.gov/fiscalnotes>

School District Impact

This bill requires districts to:

- conduct an annual student survey involving each student concerning the student's impression of the severity of bullying;
- provide teachers with biennial bully-prevention training;
- maintain a record of bullying incidents and annually report bullying incidents that occurred during the previous year; and
- implement a dress code policy to encourage school pride and unity and promote uniformity of dress.

These activities increase costs for school districts to varying degrees. The cost for student surveys in a moderately-sized school district range from \$12,000 to \$50,000. Additional costs will be incurred for teacher training and reporting.

State Appropriations

The School Bullying Prevention and Education Cash Fund is continuously appropriated to the Department of Education, so further appropriation is not required for FY 2011-12.

Departments Contacted

Education

Judicial

Legislative Council