

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0530**Date:** May 16, 2013**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Humphrey
Sen. Renfroe**Bill Status:** Postponed Indefinitely**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE CREATION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM ACTS.**Summary of Legislation**

This bill creates the K-12 and Higher Education Academic Freedom Acts. The acts urge all education professionals in public K-12 and higher education to create an environment for students that encourages scientific questioning, critical thinking skills, and the ability to respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion on controversial issues in science education. Teachers in K-12 and higher education must not be prohibited from helping students understand, analyze, critique, and objectively review the strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories covered in a given course.

No later than the start of the 2013-14 school year, and each September thereafter, public schools and state institutions of higher education must be notified of the provisions of the act(s). The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Education Committee on February 4, 2013.

Assessment

This bill does not change the expenditures or revenue of any state agency, local school district, or institution of higher education. This fiscal note assumes that encouraging critical thinking in scientific inquiry and preparing students to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of scientific evidence is current practice within public education. Additionally, notifying schools, colleges, and universities of their rights and responsibilities under the law is not a new mandate or additional expense for education governing bodies. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Departments Contacted

Education

Higher Education