



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1036

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0110
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Salazar
Sen. Ulibarri

Date: January 19, 2016
Bill Status: House Education
Fiscal Analyst: Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: HISTORY AND CULTURE IN CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	\$35,600	\$35,600
General Fund	35,600	35,600
Appropriation Required: \$35,600 - Department of Education (FY 2016-17).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing expenditure increase.		

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, Colorado’s public schools are required to teach the history and civil government of the United States, including the history, culture and contributions of American Indians, Hispanic Americans, and African Americans. Completion of a course in civil government is a requirement for high school graduation. This bill requires that schools also teach the history and civil government of the state of Colorado, and the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans.

The bill creates the 15-member History, Culture, and Civil Government in Education Commission (commission) and sets the conditions for the commission’s selection and composition. The commission must make recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) related to the learning of history, culture, and civil government. In addition, the commission must:

- assist the CDE and local school boards with the creation of content standards and instructional programs that address the bill's expanded requirements;
- participate in community forums held by school districts related to civic education; and
- make recommendations for revising state education standards to the CDE and the SBE.

Commission members must be appointed no later than August 15, 2016, and serve without compensation; however, members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses. In addition to attending the community forums, the commission is required to meet at least twice annually, beginning in September 2016.

In addition, under current law, school districts are required to hold community forums on civics content standards once every ten years. This bill requires that school districts instead hold those community forums at least once every two years.

State Revenue

The bill allows CDE to accept gifts, grants, and donations, although no sources or amounts have been identified. Grants are exempt from TABOR revenue limits.

State Expenditures

The bill increases expenditures to the CDE by \$35,600 annually, beginning in FY 2016-17. Specific costs are detailed in Table 1 and include commission meeting costs, as well as travel costs for members to attend community forums and commission meetings.

Cost Components	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Commissioner Travel - community forums	\$29,250	\$29,250
Commissioner Travel - commission meetings	4,350	4,350
Commission Meetings	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	\$35,600	\$35,600

Travel costs. Commission members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable travel costs to commission meetings and community forums. The fiscal note estimates \$29,250 per year in commissioner travel to community forums and \$4,350 per year in travel to commission meetings, assuming that one commissioner attending a school district community forum constitutes commission involvement.

Meeting Costs. The CDE requires \$2,000 annually to support commission meetings, which includes venue rental, printing, and catering for two meetings annually.

Administrative workload. The bill increases the CDE's administrative workload and costs to coordinate the commission's meetings. This fiscal note assumes 16-20 hours of staff time for each commission meeting, including preparation, staffing the event, and compiling the commission's recommendations. Assuming two required meetings annually, this implies a minimum workload increase of 40 hours annually. This small increase in workload does not require an additional appropriation.

School District Impact

The bill requires that school districts hold community forums on content standards in civics every two years. This significantly increases costs and workload for school district boards of education. The costs of holding a community forum vary among school districts, although a large school district reported that it costs approximately \$2,400 to hold a community forum, including staff preparation and participation, reporting, and logistics. While the current frequency of these forums also varies across districts, holding additional forums will drive increased costs.

Pursuant to Section 22-32-143, C.R.S., school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may submit a separate estimate of fiscal impacts within seven days of a bill's introduction. Estimates submitted by districts or BOCES for this bill can be found on the Legislative Council website at this address: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs>

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2016-17, this bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$35,600 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education
Judicial Civil

Governor's Office
Office Of Information Technology

Higher Education