



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

HB 20-1062

# FISCAL NOTE

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<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 20-0356	<b>Date:</b>	January 14, 2020
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. McLachlan	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House Education
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**Bill Topic:** COLORADO STUDENT FREE EXPRESSION LAW

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:** **No fiscal impact.** This bill clarifies the definition of student publications and adds protections for employees who protect a student's right to free expression and to the press.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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## Summary of Legislation

Under current law, public school students have freedom of speech and of the press. With specified exceptions, expressions contained in a student publication are protected speech and not subject to prior restraint. This bill clarifies that a student publication may include printed, broadcast, or online publications. The bill prohibits retaliation against public school employees who act to protect a student's right to free expression in a student publication.

## Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

The bill clarifies an existing federal and state right to free expression for K12 students. The bill does not impact the workload, expenditures, or revenue of any state agency, local government, or school district. This fiscal note assumes a high degree of compliance with the law, and that there will be no retaliation against a school employee for protecting a student's right to freedom of expression or of the press. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Education            School Districts