



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0854 Date: March 24, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Sirota, Sen. Buckner Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: TECHNICAL MODIFICATIONS TO DEPT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

The bill makes modifications to the new Department of Early Childhood. The bill minimally increases state workload.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes the following changes to the Department of Early Childhood (CDEC):

- adds the Commissioner of the Behavioral Health Administration to the Child Abuse Prevention Board and decreases the number of subject matter experts on the bill from 3 to 2;
adds the Executive Director of the CDEC to the Health Equity Commission;
increases the deadline for CDEC or the Department of Human Services (CDHS) to respond to operator requests for dependency and neglect reports from 10 days to 20 days;
allows the CDEC to enter into sole source contracts for early literacy programming and supports and whole-child services;
modifies the school district preschool hold harmless provision to account for how preschool slots are currently used and the definition of state average per pupil funding as it relates to the calculating minimum preschool provider rates;
makes technical changes to definitions, Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) reporting dates, and rulemaking for early childhood grant programs;

- repeals unnecessary language that does not apply to the CDEC and updates statutory citations and references;
- modifies when state and federal fingerprint based criminal record checks for family child care home providers in the CCCAP must be completed;
- clarifies when CDEC may provide dependency and neglect records; and
- clarifies CDEC's authority to seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations.

## Background

The CDEC was created in 2021 and is responsible for administering early childhood programs and services, beginning on July 1, 2022. House Bill 22-1295 established the new department's duties, relocated early childhood programs from the CDHS and CDE, and created the new universal preschool program, which begins in FY 2023-24.

## State Expenditures

The bill minimally impacts workload for multiple state agencies, as discussed below.

**CDEC.** The CDEC will have minimal workload to implement the bill's changes, and for a representative to sit on the Health Equity Commission. Several sections of the bill, including definition clarifications related preschool provider rates and background check timelines, codify current practice or align with other sections of statute. No change in appropriations is required.

**Department of Human Services.** The CDHS will have minimal workload to make small rule and procedure changes, and the Behavioral Health Administration will have workload for a staff member to sit on the Child Abuse Prevention Board. No change in appropriations is required.

**Judicial Department.** The bill increases workload for the Judicial Department by a minimal amount to update statutory references. No change in appropriations is required.

## Effective Date

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

## State and Local Government Contacts

Early Childhood

Information Technology

Public Safety

Education

Law

Human Services

Public Health and Environment