



Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff

SB16-187

FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 16-1236

Date: July 19, 2016

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Hill
Rep. Williams; Sias

Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: MEASURES AFFECTING CHARTER SCHOOLS

NOTE: This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes the following changes to current law governing charter schools.

Performance planning. If a charter school is accredited by the state in one of the highest categories (i.e., accredited, accredited with distinction) and is directed by the state to adopt an annual performance plan, the principal of the school may choose to adopt the performance plan biennially.

Institute chartering authority. Under current law, a local board of education may permit the establishment of one or more institute charter schools within the geographic boundaries of the school district. This bill specifies that an institute charter school that is established with permission by the local board continues to be authorized by and accountable to the Charter School Institute, regardless of later actions by the local board, unless the institute charter school voluntarily converts to a district charter school.

Automatic waivers of statute and state rule. Under current law, charter schools receive certain automatic waivers from state law; however, the State Board of Education may not waive certain other laws, e.g., laws related to accountability or educator evaluations. This bill prohibits the state board from automatically waiving statutory requirements for the minimum number of teacher-pupil contact hours.

Charter school network audits. Charter school networks must be audited as a single legal entity. The bill waives the requirement that each public school undergo a separate audit if that school is included in a charter network. Charter school networks are required to submit financial statements for each campus in the network.

School District Impact

A charter school that performs at one of the two highest levels of state accreditation may reduce their workload should the school decide to submit state required performance plans on a biennial, rather than annual basis.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Education Committee on May 10, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education