



Legislative
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HB 19-1016

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0638
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Geitner

Date: May 17, 2019
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: BASIC SKILLS PLACEMENT TESTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure (<i>minimal</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill would have prohibited institutions of higher education from using basic skills placement tests that are not available to school districts and high schools. The bill would have increased state workload and both workload and costs for state institutions of higher education, beginning in FY 2018-19.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation would have been required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this fiscal note do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, each state institution of higher education must administer basic skills placement or assessment tests in English and math to newly enrolled students. The tests must meet the standards established by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). This bill prohibits an institution from using a basic skills test that is not available to school districts and high schools, including early colleges, and requires that CCHE include this requirement in its standards.

Background

Basic skills courses are courses that are prerequisites to the level of work expected at a postsecondary institution and include academic skills courses and preparatory courses. They may also be referred to as remedial courses or developmental education. Under CCHE policy, institutions must use a recent SAT or ACT score if available, or use an assessment on the CCHE list of test options, for a primary evaluation of basic skills proficiency. To place students in a course, institutions may then use an institution-specific secondary evaluation process.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2018-19, the bill increases workload for the CCHE, institutions of higher education, and Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

CCHE. The bill increases the workload for CCHE to update commission policies related to basic skills assessment and placement tests. Currently, the CCHE policies include institution responsibilities, as well as a list of basic skills assessment options and minimum scores that institutions must use to test basic skills proficiency. Administration for the CCHE is provided by the Department of Higher Education. No change in appropriations is required.

Institutions of higher education. The bill increases workload and costs for institutions of higher education currently using basic skills tests that are provided by vendors and are not available to school districts and secondary schools. The cost of switching to a qualifying basic skills test will vary among institutions, depending on which test each institution is currently using. The fiscal note assumes that secondary placement tests developed internally by institutions in order to place a student in the correct course are not impacted by the bill.

CDE. The bill may increase the workload for CDE to answer questions from school districts and assist them with coordination with institutions of higher education. No change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Education Committee on January 31, 2019.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Higher Education