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Revised Fiscal Note

(replaces fiscal note dated February 9, 2022)

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0642 Date: March 18, 2022
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Coram Bill Status: Senate Appropriations
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Bill Topic: COLORADO SAFE STUDENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
[X] State Revenue [] TABOR Refund
[X] State Expenditure [] Local Government
[] State Transfer [X] School Districts

The bill creates the Safe Student Protection Program to provide grants to school districts and to contract with a program facilitator to improve student and school bus safety. The bill increases state expenditures starting in FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required. See State Appropriations Section.

Fiscal Note Status: This revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 22-085

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2022-23, and Out Year FY 2023-24. Rows include Revenue (Gifts Grants and Donations, Total Revenue), Expenditures (Gifts, Grants, and Donations, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Colorado Safe Student Protection Program in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to award grants and provide a program facilitator to increase student and school bus safety. The CDE must issue a report to the General Assembly about the program as part of its SMART Act hearing. The bill does not take effect until the CDE receives \$500,000 of gifts, grants, and donations.

Grant program. Contingent upon the receipt of \$500,000 in gifts, grants, and donations, the CDE must award three-year grants to school districts to:

- provide parents with non-cost secure digital notification and information tools;
- equip school buses with hardware and software that monitor driver behavior and to enable communication with first responders; and
- fund bus safety training.

Before awarding grants, the State Board of Education must adopt rules that outline the application process; criteria for awarding grants; and grant distributions to rural, urban, and suburban school districts. The bill outlines other requirements school districts must follow when they submit an application, and the information they must report when they receive a grant. The CDE must award grants as soon as possible after the effective date of the bill.

Program facilitator. The CDE must select an organization to serve as a program facilitator. The program facilitator must:

- support school districts awarded grants;
- develop and maintain secure digital notification and information tools;
- recruit school bus drivers;
- conduct or facilitate federal transportation security awareness training;
- develop school bus transportation safety information;
- conduct a statewide safety awareness campaign; and
- seek additional funding sources for the program.

The program facilitator must have at least seven years of experience in student and school bus safety and in conducting fundraising campaigns. The CDE must distribute 50 percent of gifts, grants, and donations received for the grant program to the facilitator. The program facilitator must submit a report to the CDE concerning the operation of the program.

State Revenue

The bill allows the CDE to seek and accept gifts, grants, and private donations. Starting in FY 2022-23, state revenue must increase by \$500,000 for the bill to take effect. No source or amount of private donations has been identified. Gifts, grants, and donations are not subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

Conditional on the receipt of \$500,000 of gifts, grants, and donations, the bill increases state expenditures in the CDE by \$500,000 per year starting in FY 2022-23. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2
 Expenditures Under SB 22-085**

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Department of Education		
Personal Services	\$97,466	\$97,466
Operating Expenses	\$1,755	\$1,755
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,200	-
RFP Purchasing	\$17,850	-
Grants	\$104,962	\$129,012
Program Facilitator	\$250,000	\$250,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$21,767	\$21,767
Total Cost	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total FTE	1.3 FTE	1.3 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Staffing costs. Starting in FY 2022-23, CDE will require 1.3 FTE to administer the program, including 0.5 FTE to select, oversee, and support the program facilitator and 0.8 FTE to oversee the grant program. Work includes developing rules, creating applications, providing technical assistance, reviewing applications, providing support, and compiling a report. Staffing costs include personal services, standard operating, and capital outlay costs shown in Table 1.

RFP purchase services. In FY 2022-23 only, costs in the CDE will increase by \$17,850 to contract with a purchasing agent to issue a request for proposal (RFP). The fiscal note assumes that there will be 350 hours of work at \$51 per hour.

Program facilitator. Expenditures in the CDE will increase by \$250,000 per year starting in FY 2022-23 to provide funds to the program facilitator, as outlined in the bill.

Grant funding. Starting in FY 2022-23, expenditures in the CDE will increase to provide grants to school districts. The fiscal note estimates that after administrative costs and the required contracting with a program facilitator, there will be \$104,962 in FY 2022-23 and \$129,012 in FY 2023-24 available for grants.

Centrally appropriated costs. Because the bill is conditional upon the receipt of \$500,000 in gifts, grants, and donations, the fiscal note assumes that employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement costs will be covered by the gifts, grants, and donations. These costs are shown in Table 2.

School District

Starting in FY 2022-23, workload in school districts will increase to submit applications for grant funding. To the extent districts receive grant funding, revenue to the districts will increase and workload will increase to report the required information outlined in the bill.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect once CDE has received \$500,000 of gifts, grants, and donations for the bill. The Commissioner of Education must notify the Revisor of Statutes on the day sufficient funding is received.

State Appropriations

No appropriation is required. The bill requires that gifts, grants, and donations be used to fund the program. Gifts, grants, and donations do not require an appropriation.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education School Districts