



Legislative Narrative  
January 16-20, 2012

## Overview

The General Assembly had its second round of bill introductions in the House, and both chambers began committee work this week, but it was limited to logistics, reviewing strategic plans, and briefings on accountability reports from various departments. The committees will begin the hard work of vetting the first round of introduced bills this week, beginning with a busy House Education Committee on Wednesday, and the hearing of SB12-015 Colorado ASSET by the Senate Education Committee on Thursday. The Joint Budget Committee is also finishing any final adjustments to the FY11-12 budget and will then begin the extremely difficult task of balancing the upcoming FY12-13 budget. Expect bills to begin moving quickly as the legislature tackles the first of what will most likely be a record amount of introduced bills this legislative session. At the end of the week, the Senate will have its second round of bills introduced.

## Joint Budget Committee - CDE Supplemental Budget Requests

On Friday the Joint Budget Committee heard and approved staff recommendations for supplemental funding to the Department of Education for FY11-12. These recommendations are consistent with the supplemental requests put forward a week ago by OSPB for K-12 funding. CDE requested additional funding to account for actual student enrollment counts, at-risk counts, and local revenues. Due to an increase of \$24.2M additional local share of revenue, the JBC voted to reduce state share appropriations to the districts by \$4.4M. This results in a net increase of total program funding to districts of \$19.8M coming from the increase in local revenues. Additionally, the JBC approved an increase of \$45K in cash funds from the State Education Fund to cover additional enrollment of at-risk students in the Full Day Kindergarten programs. These adjustments to the FY11-12 budget will be seen in individual bills introduced as part of the JBC's supplemental bill package in the coming weeks. Passage of this supplemental will keep the Negative Factor in the School Finance Act at its current level of 12.92%.

## Introduced Bills of Note

- HB12-1109 (Rep. McKinley) Budget Cuts to Provide More Public School Funding: For FY12-13, the bill requires the general assembly to reduce the total state general fund appropriations to the legislative branch, the judicial branch, and each executive department, excluding the department of health care policy and financing and CDE, by an amount equal to the general fund appropriations to the respective branch or department for the FY11-12 multiplied by the current rate of unemployment as of March 1, 2012. Those funds shall be transferred to the State Education Fund.
- HB12-1149 (Rep. Beezley) Parents Request Action on Low-Performing Schools: This week Rep. Beezley introduced another version of his parent trigger bill that was unsuccessful last session. This version authorizes the parents of students enrolled in a school that has operated under a priority improvement or turnaround plan for two consecutive years to submit a petition to the State Board of Education requesting the board direct the school be immediately reconfigured.

- SB12-082 (Sen. Harvey) PERA Retirement Age Same as Social Security: Several PERA-related measures were introduced this week, including a measure by Senator Ted Harvey (R) that changes the age of eligibility for PERA benefits. The bill makes the eligibility requirement to receive a PERA retirement benefit the same as the requirement to receive a retirement benefit from social security at the time the employee commences employment for a new PERA employee hired on or after January 1, 2013.

#### Upcoming Hearings

- Monday
  - o Legal Services Committee, 12:00pm HCR0112
    - HB12-1001 (Sens. Johnston & Spence / Reps. Murray & B. Gardner): Rule Review Evaluation of Educator Effectiveness
  - o House Education Committee, 1:30pm HCR0112
    - Review of departmental budget requests and strategic plans for CDE and CDHE
  - o Senate State Affairs Committee, 1:30pm SCR353
    - SB12-025 (Sen. Neville / Rep. Baumgardner): Concealed Handgun Carry with No Permit
- Wednesday
  - o Joint Education Committee, 7:30am HCR0112
    - Briefing by CDE on the implementation status of CAP4K, unified improvement plans and educator effectiveness
  - o Senate Education Committee, Upon Adjournment SCR354
    - Review of departmental budget requests and strategic plans for CDE and CDHE
  - o House Education Committee, Upon Adjournment HCR0112
    - HB12-1043 (Rep. Conti): Concurrent Enrollment For Early High School Grads
    - HB12-1061 (Rep. Kagan): The Skills For Jobs Act
    - HB12-1013 (Reps. Fields & Holbert): Interventions For Middle School Students
    - HB12-1072 (Reps. Massey & Fields): Higher Ed Prior Learning Assessments
- Thursday
  - o Joint Finance Committee, Upon Adjournment LSB-A
    - Briefing by PERA
  - o House State Affairs Committee, Upon Adjournment HCR0112
    - HB12-1067 (Reps. McCann & Court): Campaign Limits School District Elections - Action Only
  - o Senate Education Committee, 1:30pm SCR354
    - SB12-015 (Sens. Johnston & Giron / Reps. Duran & Williams): Creating Optional Category of Higher Ed Tuition (ASSET)