Summary – School Finance Bill – SB17-296

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Legislative Summary

April 2017

Introduced – April 19, 2017

Amended Senate Education –April 27, 2017

**CONCERNING FINANCING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

(By summarizing the language in the bill, this does not alter the statutory language nor should it be considered legal advice in any way. For detailed language, please see the applicable section within the bill.)

**ISSUE—FINANCE FORMULA**

**Section 1**

Calculates statewide base per pupil funding for 2017-18 to add inflation of 2.8%

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| --- | --- |
| Base per pupil funding – 2016-17 | $6,367.90 |
| Add 1.2% inflation | 178.30 |
| Base per pupil funding – 2017-18 | $6,546.20 |

The bill ~~increases the negative factor by $48.8 million to $877.4 million~~ maintains the negative factor at $828.3 million and proposes Total Program Funding after application of the negative factor is not less than ~~$6,585,800,182~~ $6,634,600,182.

**Amendment**

The bill allows teachers to sign a written pledge to uphold the constitution of the United States and State of Colorado in addition to an administered oath.

**Amendment**

The bill requires that school districts share revenue from mill levy overrides with charter schools beginning in FY 2017-18. Districts are required to calculate a per pupil mill levy share based on override revenue and the district's funded pupil count, and distribute 100 percent of the per pupil share for each charter school student enrolled in schools authorized by the district. The bill exempts override revenue from mills that a growing district may levy for capital construction, and mills any district may levy for bonded debt. The bill creates the Mill Levy Equalization Fund to facilitate distribution of the money appropriated or transferred to the fund to institute charter schools on an equal per-pupil basis. The bill includes an appropriation clause for this section.

**Amendment**

The bill adjusts the funding sources for Total Program Funding, offsetting general funds with a combination of funding from the marijuana tax cash fund and the state education fund. Funding from the marijuana tax cash fund is made available through reductions to two current programs: the school health professionals grant program ($9,642,950) and for affordable housing construction grants and loans ($16,300,000).

**Amendment**

The bill allows the State Board of Education to approve payments from the contingency reserve fund for supplemental assistance in cases where a new school or new or expanding program results in a 20 percent or greater increase in the number of pupils. The district shall reimburse the contingency reserve fund following the supplemental adjustments to total program payments.