


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0592
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Jones
 Sen. Newell

Date: June 27, 2012
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Kirk Mlinek (303-866-4782)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AS COORDINATOR FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect May 11, 2012.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

Current law designates the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) as the coordinator for suicide prevention programs throughout the state. The bill allows DPHE, in its coordinator role, to collaborate with hospitals and other facilities who, in turn, may provide information to persons who have attempted suicide or exhibited a suicidal gesture. Further, as amended, the bill permits the DPHE to work with hospitals and other facilities to identify gaps in existing suicide prevention programs and services in three areas: information and materials used and distributed in the state, available resources, and the process for referring persons to appropriate programs or treatment providers.

Finally, the bill adds a new component to the annual report that the DPHE is required under current law to submit to the House and Senate Health committees. Beginning in 2013, the DPHE is required to include in its annual report any findings and recommendations to improve suicide prevention in the state.

State Expenditures

The bill has a minor effect on DPHE's workload, but will not increase expenditures. DPHE is required to include additional information in its annual report to the legislature, an effort that can be handled within existing appropriations. Similarly, the permissive language will increase the department's costs only to the extent that the DPHE chooses to engage in the activities outlined in the bill, but even then the potential costs are not expected to require any additional appropriations.

The Colorado Mental Health Institutes in the Department of Human Services currently provide information to the people responsible for the welfare of persons who have attempted suicide or exhibited a suicidal gesture. Any additional administrative costs that result from the implementation of the bill will be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

The permissive language in the bill has the potential to increase the workloads of county and municipal hospitals, but only to the extent that local hospitals engage in the collaborative process outlined in the bill.

Departments Contacted

Public Health and Environment
Municipal League

Human Services
Colorado Counties