



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1406

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-1136
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Young
Sen. Grantham

Date: March 28, 2016
Bill Status: House Appropriations
Fiscal Analyst: Kerry White (303-866-3469)

BILL TOPIC: COUNTY CORONERS REIMBURSEMENT BY DOC

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>\$32,175</u>	<u>\$32,175</u>
General Fund	32,175	32,175
Appropriation Required: \$32,175 - Department of Corrections (FY 2016-17).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing expenditure increase.		

Summary of Legislation

Recommended by the Joint Budget Committee, this bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to reimburse a county for reasonable and necessary costs related to investigations or autopsies for persons who were in the custody of the DOC at the time of their death. Costs may include transportation, refrigeration, and body bags. Reimbursements to a county are paid upon receipt of a certified accounting of costs by the DOC.

Background

All deaths of persons in the custody of the DOC are investigated by a coroner to pronounce the time of death and issue a death certificate. In cases where an autopsy is performed (cases where the death is not immediately identifiable as arising from natural causes), this work is typically completed by a board-certified forensic pathologist. Over the past three years, there have been an average of 25 natural deaths and 15 deaths requiring an autopsy per year. Counties currently perform this work without reimbursement.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2016-17, this bill increases state General Fund expenditures by \$32,175 per year. This assumes that each natural death (25 cases per year) processed will cost \$150 and each autopsy (15 cases per year) will cost \$1,895.

Local Government Impact

This bill will increase revenue to counties by \$32,175 per year as they are reimbursed for costs related to investigations and autopsies for deceased persons who had been in the custody of the DOC.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

State Appropriations

For FY 2016-17, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$32,175 to the Department of Corrections.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections Counties Information Technology Sheriffs