**BILL TOPIC:** SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR HISTORIC AIRCRAFT

**Summary of Legislation**

Beginning July 1, 2017, the bill creates a state sales and use tax exemption for a historic aircraft that is on loan to a museum for public display, whether for demonstration, educational, or museum promotional purposes. In order to qualify for the exemption, the historic aircraft may not be used for any other purpose while it is in the state. The museum to which a historic aircraft is on loan must be open to the public at least 20 hours per week. Historic aircraft includes any original, restored, or replica heavier-than-air aircraft that is at least 35 years old.

**State Revenue**

The bill potentially decreases General Fund sales and use tax revenue for FY 2017-18, FY 2018-19, and subsequent fiscal years.

**Assumptions.** The bill exempts historic aircraft purchases only on the occasion of a private transaction, only if the transaction is currently taxable, and only if the aircraft is loaned to a museum meeting the requirements in the bill. Three museums were identified as potential display sites: Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver; the National Museum of World War II Aviation in Colorado Springs; and Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum in Pueblo. Representatives of each of these museums confirm that no aircraft purchased by a Colorado resident has been placed on loan for at least the past three years. It is assumed that a significant majority of aircraft lessors under current law are out-of-state residents or longtime aircraft owners whose planes would not be exempted under the bill. The bill potentially decreases state revenue to the extent that qualifying transactions would occur on or after July 1, 2017, absent the exemption.
TABOR Impact

This bill potentially reduces state revenue from sales and use tax, which will reduce the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR. TABOR refunds are paid out of the General Fund. Since the bill would reduce both revenue to the General Fund and the refund obligation by equal amounts, there is no net impact on the amount of money available in the General Fund for the budget. However, the bill may reduce money available for the General Fund budget in the future during years when the state does not collect money above the TABOR limit.

Local Government Impact

The bill potentially reduces revenue to statutory counties, municipalities, and special districts for which the state collects sales taxes to the extent that exempted transactions occur in these jurisdictions. Because the number of exempted transactions is small, any revenue impact on local jurisdictions will be uneven across the state.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. The sales and use tax exemption in the bill takes effect on July 1, 2017.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties  Information Technology  Municipalities  Revenue

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: www.leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes/