



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-153

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0552 **Date:** February 9, 2017
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Garcia; Crowder **Bill Status:** Senate Local Government
 Rep. Esgar **Fiscal Analyst:** Ryan Long (303-866-2066)

BILL TOPIC: SOUTHWEST CHIEF & FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue	Potential gifts, grants, and donations.	
Cash Funds	See State Revenue section.	
State Expenditures	Potential increase.	
Cash Funds	See State Expenditure section.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing potential revenue and expenditures increase.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill replaces the Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance Commission with the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission, also housed in the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission assumes the powers and duties of the old commission, which was set to repeal on July 1, 2017, as a Type 1 transfer. These duties include the coordination of efforts to ensure that track repairs and upgrades required for the continuation of existing Southwest Chief Rail service in Colorado are completed, extending rail service to Pueblo, and exploring the benefits of extending service to Walsenberg.

The Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance Commission fund will continue, and the commission may expend money from the fund to cover administrative and staffing costs, as well as the costs of necessary studies. The commission is increased from 9 to 13 commissioners. Of the voting members, five are appointed by the Governor and will represent different stakeholders, five are appointed from metropolitan planning organizations, and one member is appointed by the Regional Transportation District. The commission also includes two non-voting members: an employee of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and an employee of Amtrak.

The commission is also tasked with developing draft legislation that facilitates the development of a passenger rail system that provides service in and along the I-25 corridor. The commission must present the draft legislation to the Local Government committees of the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2017.

Background

The commission. The Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance Commission was created by House Bill 14-1161 to oversee efforts by state and local governments to ensure continuation of existing Amtrak Southwest Chief rail line service in the state. This commission consists of nine members, seven of which are voting members. The two non-voting members include an employee of CDOT and an employee of Amtrak. No reimbursements have been paid to commissioners for expenses in the current FY 2016-17.

Type 1 transfer. A Type 1 transfer is the intact transfer of an existing department, institution, or agency to a principal department. An agency transferred by a Type 1 transfer is administered under the direction and supervision of the new principal department, but still exercises its statutory functions and duties independently of the principal department.

State Revenue

The Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance cash fund is authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations. Revenue to the state may increase to the extent that any further donations are made to this fund. As of this writing, no source of gifts, grants, or donations has been identified.

State Expenditures

Commission members serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses from the Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance cash fund in the CDOT. To the extent that gifts, grants and donations are made, commissioners may receive reimbursements.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Counties
Local Affairs
Municipalities
Office Of Economic Development And International Trade
Regional Transportation District
Regulatory Agencies
Transportation