



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-153**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0552 **Date:** August 30, 2017  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Garcia; Crowder **Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
 Rep. Esgar **Fiscal Analyst:** Ryan Long (303-866-2066)

**BILL TOPIC:** SOUTHWEST CHIEF & FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>	Potential gifts, grants, and donations.	
Cash Funds	See State Revenue section.	
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Potential increase.	
Cash Funds	See State Expenditure section.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> 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, there was \$95,000 in the cash fund provided by a grant from the city of Pueblo.

## **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 was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 22, 2017.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Agriculture  
Counties  
Local Affairs  
Municipalities  
Office of Economic Development and International Trade  
Regional Transportation District  
Regulatory Agencies  
Transportation