



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 18-1177

REVISED FISCAL NOTE

(replaces fiscal note dated March 8, 2018)

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0373 Date: April 16, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet Bill Status: House Appropriations
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Bill Topic: YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill enacts several youth suicide prevention initiatives within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, increases access to text message based crisis services, and makes changes to the age of consent for a minor to seek psychotherapy services.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation of \$422,350 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and an appropriation of \$400,000 to the Department of Human Services.

Fiscal Note Status: This revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1177

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total), Total FTE, and Transfers.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), as part of its Colorado Suicide and Youth Suicide Prevention Plan, to do the following:

- contract with a nonprofit organization to establish a coordinated program of youth suicide prevention training to provide training to people and professionals who regularly interact with youths, but who may not regularly have the opportunity to receive training on mental health issues and suicide prevention; and
- maintain and publicize a list of nonprofit organizations that offer training on youth suicide prevention that has been approved by the CDPHE.

In addition, the bill directs the CDPHE to create a youth friendly, culturally sensitive website that highlights mental health resources in Colorado. The website must be deployed by July 1, 2019, and be accessible in both English and Spanish. The bill also directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to expand youth-specific interventions, including text-based services, as part of its telephone crisis intervention service (crisis hotline).

Under current law, a youth may seek psychotherapy services without a parent's consent at age 15. The bill allows a youth age 12 and older to seek psychotherapy services from a licensed mental health professional without the consent of his or her parent/guardian. The bill encourages the provider to gain the minor's consent for the provider to discuss therapy with his or her parents or guardian. If a minor communicates a clear and imminent intent or threat to inflict serious bodily harm on him or herself or others, the mental health provider must make notifications as required under current law.

State Expenditures

This bill increases General Fund expenditures by \$874,970 and 0.9 FTE in FY 2018-19 and \$557,505 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2019-20. These costs are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 18-1177**

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Department of Public Health and Environment		
Personal Services	\$62,792	\$54,800
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$5,558	\$760
Training Contractors	\$54,000	\$54,000
Website Development and Maintenance	\$300,000	\$24,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$52,620	\$23,945
FTE – Personal Services	0.9 FTE	0.8 FTE
CDPHE Subtotal	\$474,970	\$157,505

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 18-1177 (Cont.)

Department of Human Services		
Crisis Hotline Contractor Staff	\$400,000	\$400,000
DHS Subtotal	\$400,000	\$400,000
Total Cost	\$874,970	\$557,505
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	0.8 FTE

** Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.*

Personal services. The CDPHE will require 0.9 FTE to oversee the contracted nonprofit organization, collect information on available training opportunities, and, in the first year only, to manage the creation of the youth-focused website. Personal services, operating, and capital outlay expenses for this staff are shown in Table 2. First-year costs and FTE are prorated to reflect the General Fund paydate shift. In the second year, 0.8 FTE is required.

Training contractor. The bill requires the CDPHE to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide training on youth suicide prevention in local communities. This contract is estimated to cost \$54,000 per year. The contract costs will cover staffing, educational materials, and other costs incurred to conduct the trainings.

Youth friendly website. Based on the costs of similar, bilingual public health websites, the CDPHE is expected to have costs of \$300,000 in FY 2018-19 to develop a youth suicide prevention website, and costs of \$24,000 per year to main the site in future years.

Crisis hotline text services. The DHS will have costs of \$400,000 starting in FY 2018-19 to expand access to text-based services at the crisis hotline. This cost is based on providing additional staff to the hotline contract to ensure that dedicated staff for responding to text messaging is available at all hours, plus additional supervisory staff. This will result in the doubling of text-based coverage compared to current levels and require the contractor to add 7 staff at the hotline. The hotline contractor currently has 54 staff and an annual budget of \$2.2 million.

Department of Regulatory Agencies. The Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies will have a minimal increase in workload to update rules and communicate the changes under the bill to regulated mental health professionals concerning psychotherapy services for minors. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, and indirect cost recoveries, are estimated to be \$52,620 in FY 2018-19 and \$23,945 in FY 2019-20.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$422,350 and an allocation of 0.9 FTE to the CDPHE, and a General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 to the DHS.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Information Technology
Law

District Attorneys
Judicial
Regulatory Agencies

Human Services
Public Health and Environment