



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

HB 19-1027

# FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 19-0061  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Beckman

**Date:** January 14, 2019  
**Bill Status:** House Public Health Care  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Erin Reynolds | 303-866-4146  
Erin.Reynolds@state.co.us

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**Bill Topic:** CLEAN SYRINGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MITIGATION PLAN

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>minimal</i> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government ( <i>potential</i> )
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires an organization operating a needle exchange to submit an annual environmental impact mitigation plan to its local board of health, and the Department of Public Health and Environment to compile these reports and present the information to the General Assembly annually. It minimally increases state workload and potentially increases local government expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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## Summary of Legislation

This bill requires any organization that operates a clean syringe exchange program to submit an annual environmental impact mitigation plan to its county or district board of health. The plan must detail:

- the number of syringes received from and given to program participants in the previous calendar year;
- the organization's plan to minimize the number of syringes near the program location that have not been disposed of safely; and
- the organization's plan to minimize the environmental impacts of unsafe or improper syringe disposal.

The board is required to forward these plans to the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The CDPHE must compile the information received and present the information during the department's annual SMART Act hearing.

**Background**

There are currently eight counties in the state with an approved clean syringe exchange program. The number of access points, supporting organizations, and whether the county receives funding from CDPHE is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1  
Colorado Syringe Exchange Programs**

<b>County</b>	<b>Access Points</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>CDPHE Funding*</b>
Alamosa	1	San Luis Valley Health Access Risk Reduction Project	No
Arapahoe	2	Tri-County Health Department	No
Boulder	4	Boulder County Public Health	Yes
Denver	2	Colorado Health Network, Harm Reduction Action Center	Yes, Both
Jefferson	1	Jefferson County Public Health	Yes
Larimer	1	Colorado Health Network	Yes
Mesa	1	Colorado Health Network	Yes
Pueblo	2	Colorado Health Network, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association	Yes, CHN Only

*\* Indicates where some direct CDPHE funding received.*

**State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2019-20, workload for the CDPHE will increase to collect and report on environmental mitigation plans related to clean syringe exchange programs each year. The Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division of CDPHE is currently engaged with the majority of these programs and already receives some form of reporting from them. The fiscal note assumes that this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Local Government**

Workload for county and district boards of health where there are clean syringe exchange programs, as shown in Table 1, will minimally increase to forward the environmental impact mitigation plans to the CDPHE.

Local public health agencies that offer clean syringe exchange programs may have increased expenditures and workload assuming the organizations are required to both develop and implement environmental impact mitigation plans to curb unsafe or improper syringe disposal. The expenditure amount depends on the size of the county, the severity of the problem in the area, and size and scope of the existing program. Potential costs include kiosks for public disposal of syringes and staff to develop, implement, and monitor the environmental mitigation plan.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Counties      Information Technology      Public Health and Environment