



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0666
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Bockenfeld

Date: January 24, 2019
Bill Status: House Rural Affairs
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Bill Topic: BENEFITS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS WITH A DISABILITY

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

This bill allows Colorado residents who are first responders with an occupational disability to get a free lifetime resident small game hunting and fishing license, a Columbine Pass, and to participate in any applicable property tax work-off programs. This bill decreases state revenue and increases state expenditures by a minimal amount on an ongoing basis. It may also minimally affect local government revenue and workload.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced version of this bill.

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows Colorado residents who are first responders with an occupational disability to get a free lifetime resident small game hunting and fishing license, a columbine pass state park pass, and to participate in any applicable property tax work-off programs.

Background

According to the Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado, 1,017 first responders have an occupational disability and would be eligible for the benefits created by this bill. As of 2019, a combination fishing and small game pass costs \$48. The Columbine Pass is an annual state park pass that is available to permanently and totally disabled individuals for \$14 instead of the regular price of \$80. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) division in the Department of Natural Resources administers these passes. The CPW is an enterprise and revenue collected from these passes is not subject to TABOR.

**State Revenue**

Beginning in FY 2019-20 and continuing thereafter, this bill decreases state cash fund revenue credited to the CPW by a minimal amount. Revenues are decreased to the extent that a disabled first responder currently purchases and small game and fishing license or columbine pass and will now get the pass for free. Any revenue decrease that results from this bill is assumed to be less than \$5,000 and is considered minimal.

**State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2019-20 and continuing thereafter, this bill increases costs and workload in the CPW to create and process the free passes for the disabled first responders. Workload also increases to update printed and electronic materials and the IPAWS licensing system. It is assumed that this workload can be accomplished within existing resources and no appropriation is required.

**Local Government**

Beginning in FY 2019, this bill decreases local government revenue from property taxes to the extent that first responders with a disability choose to participate in a property tax work-off program in lieu of paying property taxes owed. Workload may also increase to process additional applications for work-off programs and to oversee the completion of the work. Because persons with a disability may already participate in such work-off programs under current law and because not all local governments have created a work-off program, this impact is assumed to be minimal.

**Technical Note**

A lifetime combination small game and fishing license does not exist under current law and future legislation may be required to create this pass.

**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  
Property Tax Division

Fire and Police Pension Association  
Natural Resources