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FISCAL NOTE

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| Drafting Number: | LLS 19-1105 | Date: | April 24, 2019 |
| Prime Sponsors: | Rep. Hansen Sen. Zenzinger | Bill Status: | House Education |
| | | Fiscal Analyst: | Katie Ruedebusch 303-866-3001 Katie.Ruedebusch@state.co.us |

Bill Topic: TELEPHONE USERS DISABILITIES FUND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

Joint Budget Committee. The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the Colorado Telephone Users Disabilities Fund to the Department of Education to provide library support services for persons who are blind or physically disabled. The bill may increase state revenue and workload beginning in FY 2019-20, and increases state expenditures in FY 2019-20 only.

Appropriation Summary: In FY 2019-20, the bill requires, and includes, an appropriation of \$250,000 to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1332**

| | | FY 2019-20 | FY 2020-21 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue | | - | - |
| Expenditure | Cash Funds | \$250,000 | - |
| Transfer | | - | - |
| TABOR Refund | | - | - |

Summary of Legislation

The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the Colorado Telephone Users Disabilities Fund to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies, which is reappropriated to the Department of Education (CDE), in order to provide library support services for persons who are blind or physically disabled. In addition, the bill allows the PUC to adjust the Telecommunications Relay Service Surcharge (surcharge) to provide for library support services and allows the General Assembly to make annual appropriations from the fund.

Background

Telephone relay service is a telephone service that allows persons with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls for free. In order to recover costs for the program, the PUC assesses a monthly surcharge on all residential and business telephone access lines. Voice service providers remit surcharges to the PUC and the funds are deposited in the Colorado Telephone Users Disabilities Fund. The surcharge is currently four cents per telephone line.

In addition, under current law, the state librarian's duties include providing library services for persons who are blind or physically disabled. CDE provides these services through the Colorado Talking Book Library, which is administered by the Colorado State Library.

State Revenue

To the extent that the PUC adjusts the surcharge in future fiscal years to cover the costs of providing library services, state cash fund revenue will increase or decrease, depending on the surcharge adjustment.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state cash fund expenditures by \$250,000 by the Department of Regulatory Agencies and the Department of Education in FY 2019-20 only.

Department of Education. The bill reappropriates \$250,000 to CDE in order for the state librarian to provide library support services. This fiscal note assumes that any future expenditures for providing library support services will be covered by surcharge fees and appropriated through the annual budget process.

Public Utilities Commission — Department of Regulatory Agencies. The bill may increase workload for the PUC to include the costs of providing library support services in its rules and any adjustment of the surcharge. This workload increase can be accomplished within existing resources.

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 Appropriations

In FY 2019-20, the bill requires, and includes, an appropriation of \$250,000 to the Department of Regulatory Agencies from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund, of which \$250,000 is reappropriated to the Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Regulatory Agencies