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FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0858 Date: August 13, 2020
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Gonzales; Priola Bill Status: Signed into Law
Rep. Mullica; Roberts Fiscal Analyst: Jeff Stupak | 303-866-5834
Jeff.Stupak@state.co.us

Bill Topic: SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNIZATION

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

The bill directs the Department of Public Health and Environment to modify school entry immunization documents and processes. The bill increases state expenditures beginning in FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary: In FY 2020-21, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$41,906 to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 20-163

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

School immunizations. Under current law, most students must either submit a certificate of immunization, a certificate of medical exemption, or a statement of nonmedical exemption for an immunization for a religious or personal belief in order to attend school. The bill allows students to attend school after completion of an online immunization education module by their parent or guardian, or by the student if age 18 or older or emancipated.

The bill codifies a definition of nonmedical exemption to mean an immunization exemption based on a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations or a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations. The bill also establishes a vaccinated-children standard with an immunization rate goal of 95 percent for every school.

Revised documentation. The Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) must revise its standardized document regarding childhood immunizations to include a place on the document where a school must include their specific immunization and exemption rates for at least the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. The document must be provided to the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services by January 15, 2021, which must post the standardized document to their respective websites by January 31, 2021.

CDPHE must also revise and post its standardized certifications of medical and nonmedical exemption by January 1, 2021. The certifications must inform individuals of their right to exclude their information from the immunization tracking system, collect only pertinent information related to the exemption, and must not identify specific religious faiths or personal beliefs.

The forms developed by the CDPHE must not require a parent, legal guardian, or student to sign or indicate agreement with any language regarding immunizations that may be contrary to a religious or personal belief.

Online education module. The CDPHE must administer an online learning module that uses scientific, evidence-based, and peer reviewed information to present the benefits and risks of immunizations. The learning module must incorporate interactive elements. As with the exception forms, the module must not require a parent, legal guardian, or student to sign or indicate agreement with any language regarding immunizations that may be contrary to a religious or personal belief. The CDPHE currently maintains an online learning module regarding immunizations, however it does not contain interactive elements.

Annual evaluation. The CDPHE must annually evaluate the state's immunization practices. The State Board of Health will review the evaluation and may update immunization practices for the state in response to the evaluation.

Immunization tracking system. The bill requires, as applicable, health care practitioners to submit immunization, medical, or nonmedical exemption data to the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) maintained by the CDPHE, which is not required under current law.

Background

CDPHE currently operates the CIIS and assists health care providers in submitting immunization data using this tool. About 87 percent of known immunizing providers actively participate in CIIS, with an additional 4 percent in the process of becoming full participants. CDPHE estimates that CIIS contains information for roughly 91 percent of Coloradans. Most schools are required by administrative rule to send CDPHE aggregate immunization and exemption data.

Individuals insured through Medicaid or who are uninsured are eligible to have vaccines paid for through the federal Vaccines for Children Program. The vaccines covered by this program are those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase General Fund expenditures in the CDPHE by \$48,837 and 0.1 FTE in FY 2020-21 and \$26,555 in FY 2021-22 as shown in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 20-163

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of Public Health and Environment		
Personal Services	\$5,238	-
Lectora Inspire License	\$2,595	\$1,060
Translation Software License	\$14,051	\$11,944
Annual Evaluation	\$10,000	\$10,000
Computer Programming	\$10,022	\$1,358
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$6,931	\$2,193
Total Cost	\$48,837	\$26,555
Total FTE	0.1 FTE	-

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

Personal services. In FY 2020-21, the bill requires an additional 0.1 FTE health professional in the CDPHE. The health professional will create, revise, and publish the online education module; revise training materials; and provide technical assistance to schools, parents, and health practitioners. Some of this workload can be accomplished with existing staff.

Software licenses. The bill increases expenditures in the CDPHE to purchase software licenses to develop the online education module. Lectora Inspire is an online learning software package that supports interactive elements, unlike the current education module offered by the CDPHE. The module will be available in the six most spoken languages in Colorado: English, Spanish, German, Chinese, French, and Vietnamese.

Annual evaluation. The bill increases expenditures in the CDPHE by \$10,000 beginning in FY 2020-21 to support the annual evaluation of the state's immunization practices. These funds are required for meeting preparation, facilitation services, online feedback collection, summarizing comments, and writing the report.

Computer programming. The bill consolidates religious and personal beliefs into a single nonmedical exemption, which requires programming changes to the user interface and back-end database structure of the school and childcare immunization data reporting web application. The CDPHE will require contractor services costing \$10,022 in FY 2020-21 and \$1,358 in future years to maintain these changes.

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 and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$6,931 in FY 2020-21 and \$2,193 in FY 2021-22.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 26, 2020.

State Appropriations

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$41,906 and 0.1 FTE to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Health Care Policy and Financing
Information Technology
Public Health and Environment

Education
Human Services
Municipalities
School Districts