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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 21-0623	Date:	February 25, 2021
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Zenzinger; Lundeen Rep. Titone; Larson	Bill Status:	Senate Finance
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Bill Topic: ANNUAL FUNDING FOR TALKING BOOK LIBRARY SERVICES

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input 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

This bill requires that an annual appropriation be made from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund to the Talking Book Library in the Department of Education. It is assumed that the General Assembly will continue to appropriate funding through the Long Bill to meet this new requirement.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required. See State Appropriations section.

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

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the General Assembly is authorized to annually appropriate money from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund to support Colorado Talking Book Library services for persons who are blind or physically disabled. The bill modifies the law to require this annual appropriation.

Background

The Colorado Talking Book Library was established in 1932 as a free library service that loans audio, large print, and braille books to individuals who cannot read standard print or have a reading or learning disability. It is part of a national network of libraries that partner with the Library of Congress to deliver a wide array of services to the print-disabled. The library received \$250,000 in FY 2019-20 and \$200,000 in FY 2020-21 from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund to support 2.7 FTE of the library's staff of 12. The remainder of the library's funding comes primarily from General Fund as well as federal funds.

State Expenditures

This bill has no direct impact on state expenditures. The bill restricts the ability of the General Assembly to completely eliminate funding to the library from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund, but it is assumed that adjustments to the amount of any appropriation may be made at the discretion of the General Assembly. The fiscal note assumes that current funding levels of \$200,000 and 2.7 FTE, as included in the Department of Education budget request, will be appropriated to the Colorado Talking Book Library through the Long Bill in FY 2021-22. This funding level currently supports 2.0 FTE Reader Advisors, 0.5 FTE Technical Services Librarian, and 0.2 FTE Studio Director, as well as an outreach program and a book sharing contract, and printing and postage. Future-year appropriations will be set through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

The fiscal note assumes that reappropriated funds from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund in the Department of Regulatory Agencies will be appropriated to the Colorado Talking Book Library in the Department of Education in the FY 2021-22 Long Bill. Therefore, no appropriation is required.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Regulatory Agencies