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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0049 Date: March 22, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Garcia Bill Status: Senate HHS
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Bill Topic: NURSE INTAKE OF 911 CALLS GRANT PROGRAM

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

The bill creates a pilot grant program to finance nurse intake of 911 calls with the goal of diverting non-urgent calls from emergency rooms to more appropriate lower-cost alternatives. It increases state expenditures in FY 2021-22 only.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$528,583 to the Department of Public Safety.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 21-156

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2021-22, and Out Year FY 2022-23. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a pilot grant program to finance nurse intake of 911 calls with the goal of diverting non-urgent calls from emergency rooms to more appropriate and lower-cost alternatives.

Grant program. By January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) must begin to implement the grant program. Grants will be awarded to public safety answering points that will enter into contracts with nurses who are trained to provide this service. Four total grants will be awarded: one to a recipient operating in a county with a population exceeding 60,000, and three to recipients operating in counties with populations below that threshold. Grant recipients must report program results to the DPS, and the department must report to the General Assembly and publish the report on its website by June 1, 2023.

Technical support. The following five entities are required to provide technical support to grant recipients implementing the pilot program: (1) the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the DPS; (2) the Public Utilities Commission, (3) the State Board of Nursing, (4) the Colorado 911 Resource Center, and (5) the state chapter of National Emergency Number Association.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures in the Department of Public Safety by \$537,646 in FY 2021-22 only. These costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 21-156

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Department of Public Safety		
Personal Services	\$44,908	-
Operating Expenses	\$675	-
Grants	\$483,000	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$9,063	-
Total Cost	\$537,646	-
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	-

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

The fiscal note assumes four grants of \$120,750 will accomplish the goals of the program. This cost is calculated based on each grant paying for labor equivalent to one year of a Nurse II on the state pay scale inclusive of all personnel costs (\$87,000), 20 percent for contractor reporting and overhead, and \$16,350 for rideshare services used as alternatives to ambulances. Actual grant amounts and structuring will be determined by the DPS. Department staffing is needed develop guidance for grant applicants, evaluate applications, administer the program, and report to the General Assembly.

Other state agencies are required to provide technical support to recipients; this work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

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 \$9,063 in FY 2021-22 only.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-22, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$528,583 to the Department of Public Safety.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Special Districts
Regulatory Agencies

Governor
Municipalities

Information Technology
Public Safety