



**Legislative Council Staff**

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

---

**Final Fiscal Note**

---

**Drafting Number:** LLS 23-0723 **Date:** June 29, 2023  
**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Pelton R.; Exum **Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
Rep. Lukens; Pugliese **Fiscal Analyst:** Shukria Maktabi | 303-866-4720  
shukria.maktabi@coleg.gov

---

**Bill Topic:** **OPERATIONS OF COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITALS**

---

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

The bill clarifies the responsibilities of county commissioners and public hospital trustees. The bill may minimally impact local government workload on an ongoing basis.

---

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

---

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

---

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, a board of county commissioners may establish a public hospital board of trustees, levy an annual tax, and maintain a public hospital in the county. This bill clarifies that any debt incurred by the hospital is an obligation of the county hospital, not the county commissioners.

Additionally, this bill:

- allows the title for real property held by a hospital to be in the name of either the county or the hospital;
- requires approval of the hospital’s debt by county commissioners only when the repayment is dependent on tax money received from the county for hospital purposes;
- expands the authority of county commissioners to use their general fund for hospital improvements and operations;
- clarifies that county hospitals may offer the same products and services as any other healthcare organization if those services are consistent with the powers and duties of a county hospital; and,
- allows the board of county commissioners in counties with populations of less than 3,000 to pass a resolution to expand a public hospital board of trustees from five to seven members.

## **Local Government**

The bill is not anticipated to materially impact the operations of county hospitals or boards of county commissioners. The bill provides flexibility for counties to support hospitals with general fund appropriations, and removes the requirement that boards approve all debt issued by a hospital. These changes may minimally reduce workload for local offices, such as transferring certain financial responsibilities from the board of county commissioners to county hospitals.

## **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 3, 2023, and takes effect on August 7, 2023, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties

Higher Education

Information Technology

Local Affairs

Public Health and Environment