



Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0312 Date: June 21, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Coleman; Baisley Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: SUNSET OFFENDER REENTRY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

Sunset Bill. This bill continues the Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills Program in the Department of Corrections, which is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2023. State fiscal impacts include both increases in workload from changes to the program under the bill, as well as the continuation of the program's current expenditures. The program is continued through September 1, 2028.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 23-157^1

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2023-24, and Out Year FY 2024-25. Rows include New Impacts (Revenue, Expenditures), Other Budget Impacts, and Continuing Impacts (Revenue, Expenditures, Other Budget Impacts).

^1 Table 1 shows the new impacts resulting from changes to the program under the bill and the continuing impacts from extending the program beyond its current repeal date. The continuing program impacts will end if the bill is not passed and the program is allowed to repeal.

Summary of Legislation

The bill continues the Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills (WAGEES) program for five years until September 1, 2028. It is currently scheduled to repeal in September 1, 2023. The bill also requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to track long-term recidivism rates and other data for persons who were formerly incarcerated who participated in reentry services and programs.

Background

The WAGEES program was created in 2014 by House Bill 14-1355 to provide funds to community partners that provide re-entry services with the goal of reducing recidivism, enhancing public safety, and increasing a parolee's chance of achieving success in the community. The Latino Coalition for Community Leadership serves as the intermediary between the DOC and the community and oversees the community partners and ensures proper records maintenance, use of grant funding, and provides technical, administrative, and financial guidance. The full sunset report can be found [here](#).

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on the department's FY 2022-23 budget request, the DOC is expected to have expenditures of \$7.0 million to administer the WAGEES Program. If this bill is enacted, current expenditures will continue for the program starting in FY 2024-25. If this bill is not enacted, the program will end on September 1, 2024, following a wind-down period, and state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2024-25 by the amounts shown in Table 1. The changes to the program that drive additional workload are discussed in the State Expenditures sections below.

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2023-24, workload to the DOC will increase to establish collect and report additional data, and track long-term recidivism rates. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 17, 2023, and takes effect on August 7, 2023, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Public Safety

Information Technology

Law