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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-1029	Date:	March 27, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Bird; Taggart Sen. Bridges; Zenzinger	Bill Status:	House Appropriations
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Bill Topic: CHANGES TO JUST TRANSITION OFFICE

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

Budget package bill. The bill relocates the Just Transition Office within the Department of Labor and Employment, and moves out the deadline for spending money in the office's cash fund. The bill shifts state expenditures into future fiscal years and creates a potential transfer of unused cash funds to the General Fund in FY 2029-30.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the FY 2024-25 budget package.

Summary of Legislation

The bill moves the Just Transition Office from the Division of Employment and Training in the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to the Office of the Executive Director of the CDLE. The bill moves out the deadline for the office to spend money in the Just Transition Cash Fund from FY 2023-24 to FY 2029-30, after which any unexpended money will be transferred to the General Fund.

Background

The General Assembly has transferred \$30.0 million General Fund into the Just Transition Cash Fund over the last few sessions, with half of the money to be used for action plan implementation and community support, and the other half to directly support workers. There have been a number of bills increasing or adjusting funding for the office, with differing expenditure deadlines that begin to expire beginning at the end of FY 2023-24. However, coal plants are not expected to start closing until 2025, and the Just Transition Office has only been able to expend \$2.4 million of the total \$30.0 million appropriation so far.

State Expenditures

The bill has two main expenditure impacts, relocating the office and shifting expenditures in the CDLE into future fiscal years, as discussed below.

First, the bill minimally increases workload for staff to facilitate the relocation of the Just Transition Office within the CDLE. Correspondingly, expenditures will shift from the Division of Employment and Training to the Office of the Executive Director. It is assumed that any adjustment in line item appropriations will be made in the Long Bill to reflect this change.

Second, the bill shifts spending from the Just Transition Cash Fund to future fiscal years. Under current law, the \$27.6 million in the fund must be used by the end of certain fiscal years specified in statute beginning in FY 2023-24. Under the bill, the office has until FY 2029-30 to use these funds.

State Transfer

At the end of FY 2029-30, any unused funds will be transferred to the General Fund. This amount has not been estimated.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Joint Budget Committee Staff

Labor

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).