



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0812	Date:	July 8, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Danielson Rep. Vigil; Ortiz	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: **NEWS ACCESS FOR CONSUMERS WHO ARE PRINT-DISABLED**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input 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

The bill requires the State Library to expand reading services for the blind or print-disabled. Starting in FY 2024-25, the bill increases state expenditures.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$200,000 to the Department of Human Services.

Fiscal Note Status: This final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-153**

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$30,000	\$30,000

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the State Library in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to expand on-demand news and information services to Coloradoans who are blind or print-disabled and to increase the awareness of such services.

Background

The CDE, through the State Library, provides funds to two external programs to provide reading services for the blind. This includes the Audio Information Network of Colorado (also called Aftersight), which provides on-the-air volunteer reading services through the internet, telephone, and podcasts; and the National Federation for the Blind for its Newslines service. Newslines is a free electronic service for blind and visually impaired individuals to access newspapers, magazines, and TV listings using a touch-tone telephone.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures by an estimated \$200,000 per year in the CDE. This assumes the General Assembly will appropriate \$75,000 for the Aftersight program and \$125,000 for the National Federation for the Blind. The General Assembly has the discretion to set the amount appropriated to expand these services.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 7, 2024.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Human Services

Regulatory Agencies

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](#).