



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

Bill 6

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0282
Prime Sponsor(s):

Date: October 25, 2017
Bill Status: Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Bill Request

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BILL TOPIC: INMATE TREATMENT INCENTIVE PLANS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020
State Revenue		
State Expenditures General Fund	Expenditure increase and potential decrease. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing expenditure increase and potential decrease.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill, *requested by the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems*, requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to track data on inmates who are not receiving mental health treatment specified in their rehabilitation report and to develop incentive plans to attract additional mental health providers to the geographic areas where inmates are not receiving treatment and services. Incentives may include additional fees, travel reimbursement, bonuses, and other financial incentives. The DOC must report annually to the Joint Budget Committee each December 1, starting in 2019, on the number of inmates requiring treatment and services provided by a mental health professional and the number of inmates unable to receive these services, both statewide and for any area for which an incentive plans is developed. The DOC must also report specific details about incentive plans developed under the bill, including measures of their effectiveness.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload and costs in the DOC starting in FY 2018-19. These impacts are discussed below.

Data collection, reporting, and plan development. The DOC must track and report data on inmates receipt of mental health services, and develop incentive plans in geographic areas where the inmates are not receiving recommended services from mental health professionals. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations to the DOC.

Incentive payments. Currently, it is unknown how many inmates are not receiving recommended services, which geographic areas would require incentive plans, and what incentives would be offered to mental health providers. Therefore, the cost of incentive payments cannot be estimated at this time. The fiscal note assumes that the DOC will request additional funding through the annual budget process for incentive payments once it has developed incentive plans based on documented need.

Mental health treatment costs. In FY 2017-18, the DOC is appropriated \$14.8 million for mental health services, including \$10.5 million and 152.9 FTE for personal services and \$4.1 million for medical contract services. To the extent the use of incentive payments increases overall utilization of mental health services provided to inmates, these base costs will increase. It is assumed that the DOC will account for any increase in overall mental health service costs when developing their incentive plans and requesting funding through the annual budget process.

Prison cost savings. To the extent additional mental health services allow inmates to be released on parole earlier, the DOC may have costs savings. Costs to house an inmate in DOC are approximately \$22,000 per year versus \$4,500 for persons on parole. However, an estimate of potential savings has not been estimated at this time and depends on future decisions by the State Parole Board.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Information Technology

Human Services
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