



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Bill 8

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0394
Prime Sponsors:

Date: October 28, 2019
Bill Status: Bill Request
Fiscal Analyst: Aaron Carpenter | 303-866-4918
Aaron.Carpenter@state.co.us

Bill Topic: ENHANCE SAFE2TELL

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

- State Revenue, TABOR Refund, State Expenditure, Local Government, State Transfer, Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires the Department of Law to devise a process to appropriately route non-crisis Safe2Tell tips and to conduct an advertising campaign for Safe2Tell. It also allows the Attorney General to release Safe2Tell information to a law enforcement agency to prevent imminent physical harm or serious bodily injury. The bill will increase state expenditures on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary:

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Law.

Fiscal Note Status:

This fiscal note reflects the bill draft as requested by the School Safety Committee.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under Bill 8

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditure (General Fund), Transfer, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Department of Law to:

- devise a process for non-crisis tips to Safe2Tell to be routed to appropriate personnel after initial intake by a crisis operator;
- align processes and procedures for all tips, no matter the communication method;
- conduct an annual advertising campaign for Safe2Tell; and
- provide Safe2Tell informational material to additional types of youth-related organizations for free, subject to available appropriations.

In addition, the Department of Law is no longer required to provide informational material and training to preschools. Finally, the bill allows the Attorney General to disclose any materials or information to a law enforcement agency if the Attorney General deems the disclosure necessary for the prevention of imminent physical harm or bodily injury.

Background

Safe2Tell allows students, parents, school staff and community members to report concerns regarding their own safety or the safety of others. Reports may be submitted by phone call, website submissions, or mobile application; currently Safe2Tell does not use text messaging. According to the Department of Law, during the 2018-19 school year, Safe2Tell received approximately 20,000 reports. Of these, 33 were self-reported individuals in need of crisis intervention or counseling; these calls were forwarded to Colorado Crisis Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS).

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2020-21, the bill increases General Fund expenditures in the Department of Law by \$50,000 per year, while also increasing workload in the Department of Human Services, as described below.

Department of Law. Starting in FY 2020-21, expenditures in the Department of Law will increase by \$50,000 to contract with an advertising firm to conduct an advertising campaign, as required by the bill. Workload will also increase in the department to devise a process for routing non-crisis calls, to align processes and procedures for reports received for all communication methods, and to determine when information should be released to law enforcement agencies. The fiscal note assumes that this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Finally, while expenditures will decrease by no longer providing materials and training on Safe2Tell to preschools, these savings will be offset by providing materials to other youth-related organizations. The fiscal note assumes this shift in material distribution can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Department of Human Services. To the extent that more tips are routed to the Colorado Crisis Hotline, expenditures and workload at the hotline will increase. Any adjustments in appropriations to the DHS for the hotline, if needed, will be handled through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

While the bill does not specify an effective date, the fiscal note assumes it will take effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Law.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology Law