



Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 21-0826	Date:	April 05, 2021
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Rankin Rep. Herod	Bill Status:	Senate Appropriations
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Bill Topic: **AUXILIARY SERVICES RURAL AREAS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact: **Budget package bill—no fiscal impact.** This bill codifies an existing program that requires the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind in the Department of Human Services to provide auxiliary services in rural areas of the state using funding from the Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund. It is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind to arrange for the provision of auxiliary services in rural areas of the state. The commission must provide annual program reporting to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). The bill also modifies grant eligibility requirements to remove the requirement that a nonprofit organization must be a community-based organization to be eligible to apply for grant money. Finally, the bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to implement a cost-recovery mechanism to support the provision of auxiliary services in rural areas of the state.

Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

The bill codifies the Rural Auxiliary Services program in statute, which began as a two-year pilot program created through a JBC decision during the FY 2018-19 budget process. Starting in FY 2020-21, \$700,000 cash funds spending authority from the Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund is provided on an ongoing basis for the continuation of the program. This funding provides: provision of American Sign Language and English interpreting services in locations outside of the Front Range (\$440,000); initial and advanced interpreter training to increase the number of qualified interpreters in rural communities (\$200,000); and outreach to those who need service and those who may be able to provide such service (\$60,000). As this bill codifies an existing and funded program, it is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services

Joint Budget Committee

Regulatory Agencies