



Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff

HB16-1367

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0964

Date: March 31, 2016

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Hamner; Rankin
Sen. Hodge; Marble

Bill Status: House Local Government

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

BILL TOPIC: COUNTY CATEGORIES FOR OFFICERS FOR SALARY PURPOSES

Summary of Legislation

The salary of county officers is set in statute and determined by the category of the county in which the officer serves (I through VI). Four subcategories, A through D were added to each category in 2015 under Senate Bill 15-288 for the purpose of increasing or decreasing county officer salaries. All counties are currently in subcategory A, which would result in a 30 percent increase to county officers beginning January 2019, when they are sworn in. This bill recategorizes counties resulting in smaller increases for the elected officers of those counties.

Background

County officers are elected officials and include county commissioners, sheriffs, treasurers, assessors, clerks, coroners, and surveyors. Their pay is determined by the category of the county for which they serve. County categorization is determined by a number of factors including population, unincorporated area population, assessed valuation, motor vehicle registrations, building permits, military installations, and any other relevant factor. Counties with greater workload are categorized in lower numbered categories and greater salary is paid to the officers due to the workload. For example, Adams, Boulder, and El Paso counties are in category I, while Sedwick, Kiowa, and Jackson county are in category VI.

Local Government Impact

By recategorizing each county this bill decreases the pay raises that county officers will receive beginning January 2019. This results in a total savings of at least \$1,743,420 for all counties except Mesa County which moves from category II to category I, resulting in a \$14,990 increase. For calculation purposes, this analysis used the statutorily required minimum number of county commissioners, which is three. Savings will be greater in counties with more than three county commissioners. The tables below shows the current county officers salaries (Table 1), the increase that county officers will receive in January 2019 under the House Bill 16-1367 (Table 2), and the total county savings in each county from county officers receiving less than the currently scheduled 30 percent increase, as proposed by this bill (Table 3).

Table 1. County Officers' Salaries Under Current Law					
County Category	County Commissioners	Sheriffs	Treasurers, Assessors, Clerks	Coroners	Surveyors
Category I	\$87,300	\$111,100	\$87,300	\$87,300	\$5,500
Category II	72,500	87,700	72,500	44,200	4,400
Category III	58,500	76,000	58,500	33,100	3,300
Category IV	49,700	66,600	49,700	22,100	2,200
Category V	43,800	49,100	43,800	9,900	1,100
Category VI	39,700	46,500	39,700	9,000	1,000

Table 2. County Officers' Salaries Percentage Increase Under HB16-1367					
County Category	County Commissioners	Sheriffs	Treasurers, Assessors, Clerks	Coroners	Surveyors
Subcategory A	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%
Subcategory B	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Subcategory C	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Subcategory D	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

* Under Senate Bill 15-288, each county officer will receive a 30 percent salary increase in January 2019, upon being sworn in.

Table 3. County Officer Cost Increase Comparison			
County Category	County Cost with 30 Percent increase (SB15-288)	Revised County Cost Increase (HB16-1367)	County Savings under (HB16-1367)
Category I	\$8,514,090	\$8,514,090	\$0
Category II	5,198,830	4,970,310	(228,520)
Category III	11,445,980	10,797,220	(648,760)
Category IV	5,058,300	4,785,930	(272,370)
Category V	5,457,010	5,069,530	(387,480)
Category VI	1,149,330	943,040	(206,290)
Total			(\$1,743,420)

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties Information Technology Local Affairs