



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-1162
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Rankin
 Sen. Lambert

Date: March 26, 2018
Bill Status: House Appropriations
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton | 303-866-5834
 Chris.Creighton@state.co.us

Bill Topic: BACKGROUND CHECKS EMPLOYEES ACCESS FEDERAL TAX INFO

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:**
- State Revenue
 - State Expenditure
 - State Transfer
 - TABOR Refund
 - Local Government
 - Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires fingerprint-based background checks on every applicant, contractor, employee, or other individual who has access to federal tax information received from the federal government. This bill increases state revenue and expenditures and may increase local government costs on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2018-19, this bill requires an appropriation of \$293,793 to multiple state agencies.

Fiscal Note Status: **Preliminary Note.** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as is part of its FY 2018-19 budget package. While all agencies were canvassed for this fiscal note, not all agencies were able to respond with complete information within the timeframes provided. The fiscal note will be updated if more information becomes available.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1339

		FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Revenue	Cash Funds	\$132,799	\$19,158
	Total	\$132,799	\$19,158
Expenditures	General Fund	\$158,697	\$22,869
	Cash Funds	\$137,671	\$17,462
	Centrally Appropriated	\$13,125	\$2,119
	Total	\$309,493	\$42,450
	Total FTE	0.6 FTE	0.1 FTE
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund	General Fund	\$99,179	\$14,308

Summary of Legislation

In accordance with IRS publication 1075, this bill requires a fingerprint-based background check for every applicant, contractor, employee, or other individual who has access to federal tax information (FTI) received from the federal government. Each state agency must use the results of the background check to investigate and determine if the applicant, contractor, employee, or other individual is qualified to have access to FTI and to deny access for anyone not qualified. The state agency must pay for the cost of the background check, which must be conducted in the year this bill becomes law, every ten years thereafter, and when filling a position that has access to FTI. State agencies may use a name-based background check for any applicant, contractor, employee, or other individual who has twice submitted a fingerprint-based background check and whose fingerprints are unclassifiable.

Counties. A state agency that receives FTI and shares it with a county department administering public assistance, child support services, or other programs may authorize and require the county department by written agreement to collect fingerprints on all applicants, contractors, employees, or other individuals. Similar to the state, the county must use the background check information to determine if the applicant, contractor, employee, or other individual is qualified to have access to FTI. The county is required to pay the cost of the fingerprint background check.

State agencies sharing FTI. State agencies that receive FTI and share that information with another state agency may authorize the agency in which the information is shared by written agreement to conduct fingerprint-based background checks for every applicant, contractor, employee, or other individual who has access to FTI. State agencies may not share FTI with another state agency that does not comply with these requirements.

Background and Assumptions

This analysis estimates 3,362 background checks will be needed in FY 2018-19 and every ten years thereafter. Using the statewide vacancy rate of 14.4% it is estimated that approximately 485 background checks will be needed in FY 2019-20 and each year when background checks are only required as a result of employee or contractor turnover. Table 2 shows the breakdown of background checks by state agency and Table 5 shows the fingerprint background check cost breakdown by agency. It is assumed expenditures can be accomplished within existing appropriations for state agencies with less than 20 background checks and costs of less than \$1,000.

It is assumed that staff will be given time off to have their fingerprints taken by a local law enforcement agency, which will cost \$10 and be paid by the state agency. These would then be submitted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a CBI/FBI background check, which will cost \$39.50 and be paid by the state agency. Should a state agency elect to utilize a different service for fingerprinting or the background check, additional appropriations can be requested through the annual budget process, if required.

Table 2
Estimated Background Checks by State Agency Under HB 18-1339

	Background checks needed FY 2018-19	Background checks needed FY 2019-20
Higher Education Institutions	1,000	144
Department of Revenue	840	121
Department of Human Services	740	107
Department of Personnel and Administration	235	34
Department of Labor and Employment	150	22
Department of Local Affairs	135	19
Office of Information Technology	125	18
Judicial Department	30	4
State Auditor	30	4
Department of Public Health and Environment	25	4
Department of Regulatory Agencies	18	3
Department of Higher Education	15	2
Department of Education	13	2
Department of Transportation	6	1
Total State Agency Background Checks	3,362	485

State Revenue

This bill increases state revenue from fingerprint background checks by at least \$132,799 beginning in FY 2018-19 and every ten years thereafter. Assuming the statewide employee turnover rate of 14.4 percent, state revenue from fingerprint background checks is increased by at least \$19,158 in FY 2019-20 and other years where background checks are only required in the event of a job opening.

Fee impact on Fingerprint-based background checks. Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. Table 3 estimates the fee impact of this bill.

Table 3
Fee Impact on HB 18-1339

Fiscal Year	Type of Fee	Current Fee	Number Affected	Total Fee Impact
FY 2018-19	Fingerprint-based background checks	\$39.50	3,362	\$132,799
FY 2019-20	Fingerprint-based background checks	\$39.50	485	\$19,158

TABOR Refund

This bill increases state cash fund revenue from background check fees from which will increase the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR by \$99,179 in FY 2018-19 and \$14,308 in FY 2019-20. Only \$29.50 of the \$39.50 background fee check revenue is subject to TABOR as the rest is passed through to the federal government.

Since the bill increases the TABOR refund obligation without a corresponding change in General Fund revenue, the amount of money available in the General Fund for the budget will decrease by an identical amount. State revenue subject to TABOR is not estimated for years beyond FY 2019-20.

State Expenditures

This bill increases state cash fund expenditures by \$143,071 and 0.6 FTE in FY 2018-19 and \$18,439 and 0.1 FTE in FY 2019-20 in the Department of Public Safety. These impacts are shown in Table 4. State agency costs and workload are increased as shown in Table 5.

**Table 4
 Expenditures Under HB 18-1339**

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Department of Public Safety		
Personal Services	\$38,475	\$6,082
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$5,273	-
Background Check Related Costs	\$52,578	\$4,418
Federal Background Check Pass Through	\$33,620	\$5,820
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$13,125	\$2,119
FTE – Personal Services	0.6 FTE	0.1 FTE
Total Cost	\$143,071	\$18,439
Total FTE	0.6 FTE	0.1 FTE

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Table 5
 State Agency Background Check Expenditures Under HB 18-1339**

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Higher Education Institutions	\$49,500	\$7,128
Department of Revenue	\$41,580	\$5,990
Department of Human Services	\$36,630	\$5,297
Department of Personnel and Administration	\$11,633	\$1,683
Department of Labor and Employment	\$7,425	\$1,089
Department of Local Affairs	\$6,683	\$941

Table 5
State Agency Background Check Expenditures Under HB 18-1339 (Cont.)

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Office of Information Technology	\$6,188	\$891
Judicial Department	\$1,485	\$198
State Auditor	\$1,485	\$198
Department of Public Health and Environment	\$1,238	\$198
Department of Regulatory Agencies	\$891	\$149
Department of Higher Education	\$743	\$99
Department of Education	\$644	\$99
Department of Transportation	\$297	\$50
Total Background Check Expenditures	\$166,422	\$24,010

Colorado Bureau of Investigation. This bill increases workload for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in the Department of Public Safety to conduct the fingerprint-based background checks shown in Table 2. This requires 0.6 FTE for a fingerprint technician and a data specialist in FY 2018-19 and every ten years to conduct fingerprint background checks on all state employees and contractors with access to FTI. This is based on current workload amounts in which a fingerprint technician can process 8,250 background checks per year and a data specialist can process 16,500. For FY 2019-20 and each year when background checks are only required in the event of employee turnover, 0.1 FTE is required.

State agencies. Beginning in FY 2018-19 and every ten years thereafter, state expenditures increase for fingerprint and background checks as shown in Table 5. This assumes a cost of \$49.50 per employee per background check. Of this \$10 is for fingerprinting and \$39.50 is for the CBI background check. Costs in FY 2018-19 and other years are also shown in Table 5.

Workload for these state agencies increases to review the results of fingerprint-based background checks to determine if employees should be allowed to have access to FTI. Workload further increases to the extent that access is denied to reassign the employee or fill an open position if the employee is terminated. Workload may also increase to update employee recruitment and hiring policies, procedures, and timelines related to positions with access to FTI. It is assumed this workload can be handled within existing appropriations and that agencies will request additional appropriations, if needed, for additional background checks, staff to review the results of the background check, or fingerprinting equipment through the annual budget process.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$13,125 in FY 2018-19 and \$2,119 in FY 2019-20.

Local Government

To the extent that written agreements requiring applicants, contractors, employees, or other individuals with access to FTI provided by a state agency and shared with the county are entered into, county costs will increase to pay for fingerprinting and background checks. At the time of this writing, 700 county department of human services employees were known to need fingerprint background checks for a cost of \$34,650. Workload also increases to review the results of each background check to determine if the employee should be able to access FTI. Workload may also increase to reassign the employee or fill an open position if the employee is terminated as a result of the background check and to update hiring policies and procedures. These impacts have not been estimated.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, this bill requires an appropriation of \$129,946 and an allocation of 0.6 FTE to the Department of Public Safety from the Identification Unit Fund, of which \$33,620 is passed through to the federal government for FBI background checks.

For FY 2018-19, this bill also requires the following state agency appropriations.

- \$49,500 to the Department of Higher Education from the General Fund to be distributed to the higher education institutions through the fee-for-service contracts;
- \$41,580 to the Department of Revenue from the General Fund;
- \$36,630 to the Department of Human Services from the General Fund;
- \$11,633 to the Department of Personnel and Administration from the General Fund;
- \$7,425 to the Department of Labor and Employment from the Employment Support Cash Fund;
- \$6,683 to the Department of Local Affairs from the General Fund;
- \$6,188 to the Office of Information Technology from the General Fund;
- \$1,485 to the Judicial Department from the General Fund;
- \$1,485 to the Office of the State Auditor from the General Fund; and
- \$1,238 to the Department of Public Health and Environment from the General Fund;

State and Local Government Contacts

All State Agencies