



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 19-1244

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0978 Date: March 26, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Coleman Bill Status: House Judiciary
Sen. Fields; Gardner Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton | 303-866-5834
Chris.Creighton@state.co.us

Bill Topic: EXPAND PEACE OFFICER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

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

This bill expands the Peace Officers Mental Health Support Grant Program. This bill increases state, local government, and statutory public entity costs and workload beginning in FY 2019-20.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, county sheriff offices and municipal police departments are eligible to apply for the Peace Officers Mental Health Support Grant Program, which is administered by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Grant funds received can be used for mental health professionals to provide counseling to peace officers or for on-scene services to support officers dealing with persons with mental health disorders. This bill expands the list of eligible law enforcement agencies to include state and higher education law enforcement and peace officer organizations as defined in the bill. This bill also expands the allowable uses of these grant funds to include assistance in the development of use of force policies, job-related mental trauma training and education programs, and peer support programs.

Background

The Peace Officers Mental Health Support Program Grant was created in 2017, and \$2.0 million was appropriated to the Peace Officers Mental Health Support Fund. In 2018, grants totaling \$1.4 million were awarded to 16 local law enforcement grant recipients with an average grant amount of \$84,700. After accounting for administrative costs, approximately \$500,000 remains in this fund.

## **State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill increases state agency costs and workload as discussed below.

**Department of Local Affairs.** This bill increases DOLA workload by a minimal amount to update grant policies and procedures and to review additional grant application requests received. If additional grants are awarded, expenditures will increase. It is assumed that grants will be awarded from funds currently in the Peace Officers Mental Health Support Fund in FY 2019-20 and that DOLA will request any additional funds needed through the annual budget process.

**State and higher education law enforcement.** Expenditures and workload will increase for any state agency or higher education law enforcement agency that receives grant funds. This includes the Colorado Bureau of Investigations in the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, the Division of Parks and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources and various higher education campus police departments.

## **Local Government**

Beginning in FY 2019-20, costs and workload will increase for local law enforcement agencies that receive grant funding for the development of use of force policies, job-related mental trauma training and education programs, and peer support programs. Alternatively, if grant funds are awarded to state or higher education law enforcement or peace officer organizations, grant funding available to local law enforcement agencies will decrease.

## **Statutory Public Entities**

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill will increase costs and workload for the Fire and Police Pension Association if they apply for and receive grant funds.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Corrections  
Information Technology  
Natural Resources

Counties  
Local Affairs  
Public Safety

Higher Education  
Municipalities  
Sheriffs