



Legislative
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Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1113

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 20-0161	Date:	August 17, 2020
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Titone; Van Winkle Sen. Bridges; Lundeen	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires the Department of Law to devise a process to appropriately route Safe2Tell tips relating to mental health and substance abuse. The bill will increase state expenditures on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Department of Law to:

- work with stakeholders when developing training materials for appropriate Safe2Tell responses;
- provide Safe2Tell informational material to additional types of youth-related organizations for free, subject to available appropriations; and
- devise a process and standard protocols for mental health and substance abuse tips to Safe2Tell to be transferred to the Colorado Crisis Hotline.

In addition, the Department of Law no longer has to report a tip to law enforcement or school officials if the tip was forwarded to the statewide crisis hotline. It is also not 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. When Safe2Tell receives a tip, the program may transfer callers who are self-reporting behavioral or mental health concerns to the statewide crisis hotline. Of the reports Safe2Tell received, 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 will increase workload in the Department of Law and in the Department of Human Services, as described below.

Department of Law. Starting in FY 2020-21, workload in the Department of Law will increase to devise a process for routing non-crisis calls, and to align processes and procedures for reports received for all communication methods. The fiscal note assumes that this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations. While expenditures will decrease to no longer provide 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. Because it is not known how many more tips may be transferred to the Colorado Crisis Hotline, the fiscal note assumes that any adjustments in appropriations to the DHS for the hotline will be handled through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on July 8, 2020.

Departmental Difference

The DHS estimates that General Fund expenditures will increase by \$22,546 in FY 2020-21 and \$53,680 in FY 2021-22 to handle additional transfers to the statewide crisis hotline. The DHS estimate assumes that 123,877 calls will be forwarded to the crisis hotline; that each call will take 13 minutes each, resulting in an increase of 2,065 hours of staff time; and that an additional contracted 1.0 FTE at a cost of \$53,680 per year is required. Costs in FY 2020-21 are prorated for a February 2021 start date. The fiscal note assumes that because calls into Safe2Tell can already be routed to the Colorado Crisis Hotline, and since the volume of calls will be affected by the process and standard procedures developed under the bill, the DHS can request additional funds through the annual budget process based on the actual increase in workload.

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services

Law