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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0672
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Snyder; Carver Sen. Lee

Date: February 12, 2020
Bill Status: House SVMA
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Bill Topic: VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS SERVICES ASSESSMENT

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

The bill requires the Department of Human Services to conduct an assessment of the services offered by the state's veterans community living centers. The bill increases state expenditures in FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required; the Department of Human Services is continuously appropriated funds to pay for the expenditures described in this fiscal note.

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

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1220

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires the Department of Human Services (CDHS) to conduct an assessment of the services provided by the state's veterans community living centers. The assessment must evaluate:

- the changing demographics of the veteran population in Colorado;
- the treatment needs specific to younger veterans;
- best practices for services and treatment related to post-traumatic stress disorder and other behavioral health issues;
- the benefits and limitations of providing service through existing veterans centers;
- alternative models of care; and
- the impact on long-term care facilities of the changing health care needs of veterans.

CDHS must submit a report of their assessment to the state, veterans, and military affairs committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2020.

## **Background**

CDHS manages and operates five state veterans community living centers that provide services to veterans and their spouses, widows and in some instances, parents of deceased veterans. Services provided include long-term care, short-term rehabilitation for individuals seeking to return home following a qualifying hospital stay, memory care services for individuals with dementia, short-term respite care, and end-of-life/hospice services.

The five centers are located throughout the state in Aurora, Florence, Monte Vista, Rifle, and Walsenburg. Each facility is Medicare and Medicaid certified and licensed by the Department of Public Health and Environment. Additionally, the centers are certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to receive federal funds in support of the care of veterans.

## **State Expenditures**

In FY 2020-21, the bill increases cash fund expenditures in CDHS by \$300,000 from the Veterans Community Living Centers Central Fund to conduct an assessment of services provided by the state's veterans community living centers. It is assumed that this work will be done by a contractor and costs are based on similar studies conducted by CDHS. The assessment is larger in scope than previous assessments of veterans centers conducted by CDHS, requiring the evaluation of veterans' needs across the state, visits to each center, and an evaluation of the needs of a specific group of veterans.

## **Effective Date**

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

## **State Appropriations**

No appropriation is required as the costs under the bill will be paid from the continuously appropriated Veterans Community Living Centers Central Fund.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Higher Education  
Information Technology

Human Services  
Military Affairs