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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0169 Date: August 23, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet; Baisley; Sen. Danielson Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: DISABILITY SYMBOL IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

The bill allows individuals to request that a disability identifier symbol be added to or removed from their state identification card, and to voluntarily disclose a disability status on a vehicle registration.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$89,298 to the Department of Revenue.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1014

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2021-22, and Out Year FY 2022-23. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows persons with disabilities that interfere with their ability to effectively communicate with a peace officer to add a disability identifier to their driver license or identification card by disclosing such information to the Department of Revenue (DOR). The disability identifier must represent all types of disabilities, including cognitive disabilities, neurological diversities, mental health disorders, sensory needs, chronic illness, chronic pain, and physical disabilities. The DOR must develop the symbol by rule. Persons requesting such an identifier must provide an application form, signed by a medical professional, which affirms they have a disability that interferes with their ability to communicate with a peace officer. The DOR is not allowed to charge a fee for placement of a disability identifier symbol. A person may also choose to remove the disability identifier symbol from their identification card, and at their request, the DOR must issue a new identification card without the disability symbol at no cost.

The bill also requires the DOR to collect information that the owner of a vehicle voluntarily discloses about the disability of a person who is either authorized to drive, or a regular passenger of, the registered vehicle. The owner of the vehicle must also complete an application, signed by a medical profession, which affirms the individual whose information is being collected has a disability that interferes with their ability to communicate with a peace officer. The department shall make this information immediately available to a peace officer who queries information about the registered vehicle.

The DOR is required to notify peace officers about the creation of the disability identifier symbol and the availability of information regarding the disability of a driver or passenger of a motor vehicle. It also requires the DOR to provide additional resources to peace officers, including training in recognizing and interacting with persons with disabilities, and related federal requirements.

By January 15, 2023, and annually thereafter, the bill requires the DOR to report to the General Assembly on the percentage of individuals who requested a disability symbol on their driver license or identification card, as well as the percentage of individuals who disclosed disability information when registering a vehicle.

Background

Colorado Driver License offices create accounts for driver license and identification card applicants in the Colorado Driver License, Record, Identification, and Vehicle Enterprise Solution (DRIVES) system. The DRIVES system currently does not link a driver record with a vehicle record, and vehicle records in the system only capture information and names for vehicle owners. Issuance of identification documents in Colorado was 129,543 in April, 2021. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 25 percent of U.S. adults report having a disability.

State Expenditures

This bill increases General Fund expenditures in the DOR by \$89,298 in FY 2021-22 and \$3,498 in FY 2022-23. These costs are shown in Table 2 and explained in more detail below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 21-1014

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Department of Revenue		
Computer Programming	\$85,800	-
Driver License Documents	\$3,498	\$3,498
Total Cost	\$89,298	\$3,498

Computer programming. In FY 2021-22, this bill increases one-time computer programming costs for the DOR by \$85,800. This work will allow the DRIVES system to capture and retain new information fields, create a report indicating the number of individuals who have requested the new disability symbol created by the bill, and an option to remove the symbol from an identification card at no charge. Of this amount, it is estimated that \$55,800 will be paid to the DOR's vendor responsible for maintaining the DRIVES system, including 248 hours of work at \$225 per hour, and \$30,000 will be used by the Office of Information Technology on hardware and other services.

Driver license documents. The bill requires DOR to remove the new disability symbol from a person's identification card at their request, at no cost to the individual. Identification card replacement increases costs for the DOR by \$3.60 per card. This fiscal note assumes that a total of 1.5 million identification cards will be issued annually by DOR, based on April 2021 issuance totals, that 25 percent of persons with a disability in Colorado will choose to get the new symbol on their identification card, and that 1 percent of that population will ask to have the symbol removed in any given year. Based on these assumptions, this fiscal notes estimates that DOR will reissue 972 identification cards at a cost of \$3,498 in FY 2021-22 and future years.

Training and reporting. The bill requires DOR to provide agent and peace officer training, to annually report on the utilization of the new disability identification services to the General Assembly, and to provide additional resources about persons with disabilities to peace officers. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

Workload in county clerk and recorder offices will increase to provide training and education about the new identification requirements under the bill, and to remove the disability symbol from identification cards upon request.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 30, 2021, and takes effect on July 1, 2022, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-22, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$89,298 to the Department of Revenue, of which \$30,000 is reappropriated to the Office of Information Technology.

Technical Note

The bill includes an FY 2021-22 appropriation to the Department of Revenue, but the act itself does not take effect until July 1, 2022, after the end of FY 2021-22.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Information Technology
Public Safety

County Clerks
Local Affairs
Regulatory Agencies

Human Services
Municipalities
Revenue