



Legislative Council Staff

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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0130 Date: August 18, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Danielson; Pettersen Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: INCREASE MEDICAL PROVIDERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

The bill modifies the Colorado Health Service Corps program to include education loan repayment for geriatric advanced practice providers. It increases state expenditures from FY 2021-22 through FY 2027-28.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill includes an appropriation of \$400,000 to a cash fund in the Department of Public Health and Environment. This cash fund is continuously appropriated to the department.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 21-158

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

## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill modifies the Colorado Health Service Corps program in the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to include geriatric advanced practice providers. It allows geriatric advanced practice providers who meet certain criteria to participate in an education loan repayment program. In order to be eligible, a geriatric advanced practice provider must enter into a contract to provide such care for at least two years. In addition, they must have completed at least one of the following:

- a formal, postgraduate geriatrics training program;
- formal geriatrics training within an advanced practice provider training program and at least 12 months of postgraduate clinical experience, with an emphasis on providing geriatric care; or
- a geriatric track clinical experience during an advanced practice provider training program.

The bill also updates the definition of "state designated health professional shortage area" to include a shortage of geriatric advanced practice providers and increases the membership of the Colorado Health Service Corps Advisory Council from 15 to 16 with the addition of a physician who provides geriatric care or a geriatric advanced practice provider.

## **Background**

The Colorado Health Service Corps program is administered by the Primary Care Office at the CDPHE, and was created in 2009. It provides educational loan repayment for medical professionals who agree to provide primary health care services in a federally designated health professional shortage area. Participating medical professionals serve in public or non-profit clinics in low-income or rural areas throughout the state. Since FY 2009-10, the program has grown from \$250,000 in annual loan repayment funding to \$10,690,569 in FY 2019-20. The program currently operates with 10.7 FTE.

## **Assumptions**

The fiscal note assumes that operating costs associated with administering the program are paid out of the bill's appropriation. The balance of the appropriation is awarded via three-year loan repayment contracts, which are paid in year one of the contract and monitored for compliance in years two and three.

## **State Expenditures**

The bill increases state expenditures by \$438,966 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2021-22 and by \$429,611 and 0.6 FTE in FY 2022-23. State expenditures in the subsequent years will be based on the amount of loan repayment appropriated by the General Assembly, with administration costs depending on the number of contracts awarded and biennial reporting requirements. New expenditures are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

**Table 2  
Expenditures Under SB 21-158**

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
<b>Department of Public Health and Environment</b>		
Personal Services	\$46,817	\$38,807
Operating Expenses	\$1,525	\$1,255
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,200	-
Contractor	\$31,250	-
Data Hosting	\$2,000	\$2,000
Loan Repayment Contracts	\$312,208	\$357,938
Centrally Appropriated Costs <sup>1</sup>	\$38,966	\$29,611
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$438,966</b>	<b>\$429,611</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.8 FTE</b>	<b>0.6 FTE</b>

<sup>1</sup> Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Department of Public Health and Environment.** Beginning with FY 2021-22, the CDPHE will collect and analyze data from geriatric clinicians, post its geriatric shortage assessment, promote the geriatric program, evaluate applications, select contractors, execute contracts, and monitor program participants. Also in FY 2021-22, the CDPHE will develop shortage designation methodology, solicit stakeholder feedback on the methodology, and promulgate rules. In FY 2022-23 and beyond, the CDPHE will evaluate, select, and monitor new contracts.

*Contractor and data hosting.* The CDPHE's Colorado Health Systems Directory is provided by an independent vendor. The directory will need to be updated in FY 2021-22 to track geriatric training data and maintained annually.

*Loan repayment contracts.* The remaining funds appropriated by the bill will be used for the loan repayment program for qualified geriatric advanced practice providers. The program offers three-year contracts of up to \$50,000, which are paid in the first year and monitored in the subsequent two years.

**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 \$38,966 in FY 2021-22 and \$29,611 in FY 2022-23.

## **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on July 6, 2021, and takes effect on September 7, 2021, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State Appropriations**

For FY 2021-22, the bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 and 0.8 FTE to the Colorado Health Service Corps Fund, which is continuously appropriated to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Governor  
Information Technology

Health Care Policy and Financing  
Public Health and Environment

Higher Education  
Regulatory Agencies