



Legislative Council Staff
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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 22-1023
Prime Sponsors: Rep. McCluskie, Sen. Donovan
Date: April 20, 2022
Bill Status: House Agriculture
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Bill Topic: SUPPORT DARK SKY DESIGNATION & PROMOTION IN COLORADO

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

The bill creates the Colorado Dark Sky Designation Technical Assistance Grant Program in the Colorado Tourism Office. The bill creates a one-time state transfer and expenditure increase in FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required; funds are continuously appropriated to the Colorado Tourism Office.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 22-1382

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2022-23, and Out Year FY 2023-24. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds, Total Expenditures), Transfers (General Fund, Cash Funds, Net Transfer), and Other Budget Impacts.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Colorado Dark Sky Designation Technical Assistance Grant Program (program) in the Colorado Tourism Office (office) to provide technical assistance grants to applicants applying to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) to have a community or place designated as an International Dark Sky Place (IDSP). It transfers and continuously appropriates \$35,000 from the General Fund to the Colorado Travel and Tourism Additional Source Fund to implement the bill.

The office is required to establish policies for the grant application process, including the requirement that applicants demonstrate community and stakeholder support for the IDSP application, provide education and outreach about dark skies, and promote responsible and sustainable tourism opportunities in designated IDSPs. The office may contract with the IDA for assistance with program development, grant application review and recommendation of awards, and education and outreach.

By November 1, 2023, the office is required to submit a report to the legislature on expenditure of the funds, and progress of the program, including the number of grant recipients that have successfully received an IDSP designation for a community or place.

Background

The IDA provides tools and resources to reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting. IDSPs are designated following an application process that requires applicants to demonstrate robust community support for dark-sky protection, and document designation-specific program requirements. Applications are reviewed by an IDA standing committee of dark-sky experts, and previously successful program applicants. Upon designation, the IDA works with IDSPs on promotion through media relations, member communications, and social media. An IDSP designation helps enhance the visibility of designated locations and fosters increased tourism and local economic activity.

State Transfers

On July 1, 2022, the bill transfers \$35,000 from the General Fund to the Colorado Travel and Tourism Additional Source Fund.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Colorado Tourism Office within the Governor's Office by \$35,000 in FY 2022-23 from the Colorado Travel and Tourism Additional Source Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2
 Expenditures Under HB 22-1382**

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Colorado Tourism Office		
Program Management and Communications	\$6,000	-
Contractor – Technical Assistance	\$16,000	-
Contractor – Education and Outreach	\$12,000	-
Contractor – Administration	\$1,000	-
Total Cost	\$35,000	-

Colorado Tourism Office. In FY 2022-23, the office will incur expenses to administer the grant program and contract with the Colorado Chapter of IDA to promote the program and provide technical assistance grants. The fiscal note assumes that funds will be spent in FY 2022-23, but a portion of the funds may be spent in FY 2023-24.

- **Program management and communications.** In FY 2022-23 only, the office requires \$6,000 for program oversight, grant application review, and website development and maintenance.
- **Technical assistance.** In FY 2022-23 only, 40 hours of technical assistance and 2 on-site visits will be required by the contractor for each of the assumed four applicants, for a total of 160 hours and 8 on-site visits. Costs are estimated at \$4,000 per applicant for a total of \$16,000.
- **Education and outreach.** In FY 2022-23 only, the contractor will engage in digital and physical content development and distribution, and the use of earned media, estimated to cost approximately \$12,000.
- **Administration.** In FY 2022-23 only, costs for the contractor’s administrative tasks including human resources, accounting, and reporting tasks are estimated at \$1,000.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Governor Information Technology Treasury

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.