



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 23-0947	Date:	July 6, 2023
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Joseph; Soper Sen. Roberts; Gardner	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: COLORADO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

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

The bill codifies the authority and duties of the Colorado Access to Justice Commission. Starting in FY 2023-24, the bill will increase state revenue and expenditures.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required as the Colorado Access to Justice Cash Fund is continuously appropriated to the commission.

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill codifies the Colorado Access to Justice Commission into state law. The commission is charged with expanding access, quality, and fairness in the justice system. The bill outlines the number of members on the commission and the appointing authorities, and that members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. The commission may hire staff, and is required to prepare and submit an annual report on its work to the General Assembly. Finally, the bill creates the Colorado Access to Justice Cash Fund to consist of money appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, grants, or donations; money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the commission.

Background

The Colorado Access to Justice Commission is currently a nonprofit organization that advocates for policy changes to help Coloradans resolve legal issues. More information about the commission can be found [here](#).

Assumptions

The fiscal note assumes that the commission codified by this bill will operate separately from the nonprofit, and will only meet to make recommendations and draft a report.

State Revenue

To the extent the commission created under the bill receives gifts, grants, and donations, state revenue will increase. The amount of money that will be collected through gifts, grants, and donations is unknown. Revenue from gift, grants, and donations is not subject to the state's TABOR limit.

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2023-24, the bill may increase state cash fund expenditures in the commission and will increase workload in the Judicial Department and the Governor's Office, as described below. As discussed in the Assumptions section, the fiscal note assumes any commission costs will be funded by gifts, grants, and donations.

Colorado Access to Justice Commission. State cash fund expenditures may increase to expend the donations. In addition, workload for the commission will increase to the meet and create recommendations. The fiscal note assumes no appropriation is required to complete this work.

Judicial Department. The bill will increase workload to the Judicial Department to administer the newly created cash fund and to pay the commission's invoices, to the extent the commission receives gifts, grants, and donations. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Governor's Office. The Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions will make the required appointments under the bill. This work is assumed to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 2, 2023, and takes effect on August 7, 2023, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

The newly created Colorado Access to Justice Cash Fund is continuously appropriated to the Colorado Access to Justice Commission; therefore, no additional appropriation is required.

State and Local Government Contacts

Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions

Judicial

Law