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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 24-0577 Date: August 8, 2024
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Bradley; Duran Bill Status: Signed into Law
Sen. Mullica Fiscal Analyst: Kristine McLaughlin | 303-866-4776
kristine.mclaughlin@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: SUNSET PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

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

Sunset bill. The bill continues the regulation of physical therapists, which is scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024. State fiscal impacts include the continuation of the program's current revenue and expenditures. Changes to the program under the bill have minimal workload impact. The program is continued through September 1, 2035.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1327

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2024-25, Out Year FY 2025-26. Rows include New Impacts (Revenue, Expenditures), Continuing Impacts (Revenue, Expenditures), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts (TABOR Refunds).

1 Table 1 shows the new impacts resulting from changes to the program under the bill, and the continuing impacts from extending the program beyond its current repeal date. Because the bill continues a program with minor changes, the new impacts are minimal and not quantified. The continuing program impacts will end if the bill is not passed and the program is allowed to repeal.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill continues the regulation of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants for 11 years from September 1, 2024, to September 1, 2035. The bill also authorizes physical therapists to recommend and prescribe durable medical equipment without a prescription from a physician.

## Background

Physical therapists have been regulated in Colorado since 1959. There are currently approximately 9,000 licensed physical therapists and 2,000 licensed physical therapist assistants in Colorado. The full sunset report and recommendations on the profession can be found [here](#).

## Continuing Program Impacts

Based on the 2023 sunset report, DORA is expected to have revenue of about \$300,000 and expenditures of \$350,000 to administer the physical therapy program in FY 2025-26, with higher revenue in alternating years that reflects the two-year license renewal schedule. If this bill is enacted, these impacts will continue for the program starting in FY 2025-26. This continuing revenue is subject to the TABOR. If this bill is not enacted, the program will end on September 1, 2024, followed a wind-down period, and state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2025-26 by the amounts shown in Table 1.

## State Expenditures

Workload will minimally increase in DORA to conduct rulemaking, education, and outreach concerning the new policy around durable medical equipment. No appropriation is required.

## Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 5, 2024, and it took effect on August 7, 2024, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies

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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 the [General Assembly website](#).