



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-1093	Date:	March 27, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Sirota; Taggart Sen. Bridges; Kirkmeyer	Bill Status:	House Appropriations
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Bill Topic: **DISCOUNTED CARE FOR INDIGENT PATIENTS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

Budget package bill. The bill modifies and combines programs that provide discounted care for indigent patients. The bill minimally impacts state workload.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the FY 2024-25 budget package.

Summary of Legislation

The bill repeals the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) effective July 1, 2025, and moves some of its responsibilities the Hospital Discounted Care Program (HDC). Both programs are operated by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and serve the same population.

The bill also requires the Medical Services Board to promulgate rules to disproportionately distribute hospital payments from the healthcare affordability and sustainability (HAS) fee to hospitals that serve more Medicaid and uninsured patients and offer financial assistance to low-income Coloradans.

Background

HCPF operates both the CICP and HDC, which provide discounted health care services to low-income Colorado residents who are not eligible for Medicaid or CHP+. Neither are insurance programs but they limit the amount that these patients can be billed for health care services at hospitals and emergency rooms. HCPF has operated the CICP since 2006 and has operated the HDC since 2021 upon implementation of [House Bill 21-1198](#) which moved the program to HCPF from the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

State Expenditures

Since the HDC provides the same services as the CICIP to the same population, it is assumed that anyone affected by the repeal of the CICIP will continue to receive services under the HDC and overall costs to HCPF will be unaffected.

The bill requires the HDC to form an advisory committee and meet reporting requirements. Since similar requirements were previously placed on the CICIP, any change in workload is expected to be minimal.

Rules concerning disproportionate share payments have already been promulgated. Workload will minimally increase for the state board to update references to the CICIP.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Health Care Policy and Financing

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](#).