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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0139	Date:	January 16, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Fields; Michaelson Jenet Rep. Titone	Bill Status:	Senate Health & Human Services
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Bill Topic: **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM**

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

The bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to contract with a third-party entity to administer a behavioral health first aid training program. The bill increases state expenditures beginning in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: The bill requires an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-007**

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$500,000	\$500,000
	Centrally Appropriated	\$5,627	\$3,751
	Total Expenditures	\$505,627	\$503,751
	Total FTE	0.3 FTE	0.2 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$75,000	\$75,000

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Behavioral Health First Aid Training Program in the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The program uses a train-the-trainer model targeted at participants from schools and other organizations. Participants will be prepared under the program to teach certification courses to teens and adults in their organizations and communities. The office must adopt rules for the program, and contract with a third party entity to administer and offer the training program to eligible organizations.

The contracted administrator for the program must be a Colorado-based nonprofit with experience implementing evidence-based behavioral health first aid training programs statewide. The administering third-party entity must offer training programs at no cost to selected organizations, which may include public schools, nonprofit organizations, and first responder agencies, among others. The bill sets minimum criteria to use in selecting organizations to receive training. The office must use a pre- and post-program survey administered by the third-party entity to evaluate the training program and report evaluation data and recommendations for improvement.

Beginning with FY 2024-25, the bill requires that the General Assembly appropriate \$500,000 from the General Fund to the CDPHE for the program.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDPHE by about \$500,000 annually beginning FY 2024-25, paid from the General Fund. Expenditures are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 24-007

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Department of Public Health and Environment		
Personal Services	\$23,090	\$15,393
Third-Party Administration	\$476,910	\$484,607
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$5,627	\$3,751
Total Cost	\$505,627	\$503,751
Total FTE	0.3 FTE	0.2 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Personal services. Additional staff resources (0.3 FTE) are required in the CDPHE beginning in FY 2024-25 to adopt rules, manage the request for applications (RFA) and selection process, develop a pre- and post-survey for program evaluation, monitor contracts and performance, and process payments and accounting. Ongoing staffing (0.2 FTE) is needed for continued fiscal management of the vendor contract, technical assistance to qualifying organizations, reporting, and administrative coordination with other mental health programs in the department.

Third-party administration. The bulk of the bill's cost is for third party administration of a behavioral health first aid training program. Once rules and evaluative criteria are developed, the administrator must provide training to qualifying organizations at no charge, using the state funds provided via the contract with CDPHE.

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 shown in Table 2.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and 0.3 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Health and Environment

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](#).