



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0075	Date:	January 26, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Sullivan Rep. Froelich; Amabile	Bill Status:	Senate Health & Human Services
		Fiscal Analyst:	Alexa Kelly 303-866-3469 alex.kelly@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE & SUICIDE PREVENTION

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 creates the Agricultural Workforce Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program in the Department of Agriculture. It increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$264,944 to the Department of Agriculture.

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

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-057**

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$264,944	\$208,274
	Centrally Appropriated	\$35,396	\$29,729
	Total Expenditures	\$300,340	\$238,003
	Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$39,742	\$31,241

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Agricultural Workforce Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program (program) in the Department of Agriculture (CDA). The program must:

- create a public awareness program to promote suicide prevention among agricultural workers;
- contract with an organization to offer free and confidential crisis support hotline specific to the culture, values, stressors, and lived experiences of agricultural workers;
- develop a mental wellness plan for agricultural workers impacted by natural disasters;
- coordinate suicide prevention and crisis management services with the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA);
- collaborate with the BHA to ensure those calling the 988 crisis hotline and the crisis support hotline created in the bill are served; and
- collect data on the program and recommend legislative changes.

The bill also mandates that the CDA submit an annual report to the General Assembly with the collected data and recommendations beginning September 1, 2025. The department may create rules to implement the program.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDA by approximately \$300,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$240,000 in future years. The fiscal note assumes that expenditures are paid from the General Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 24-057

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Department of Agriculture		
Personal Services	\$51,596	\$51,596
Operating Expenses	\$640	\$640
Capital Outlay	\$6,670	-
Public Awareness Campaign	\$73,200	\$73,200
Crisis Hotline Contract	\$82,838	\$82,838
Mental Health Contractor	\$50,000	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$35,396	\$29,729
Total Cost	\$300,340	\$238,003
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE

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

Department of Agriculture. The CDA will have costs to establish the program and implement the requirements in the bill, as outlined below.

- **Staff.** Implementation and administration of the program will require 0.5 FTE in the Conservation Services Division to coordinate suicide prevention and crisis management services with state agencies. Work will include collaborating with the BHA to ensure hotline callers are served, collect data and make recommendations, coordinate and oversee contracts with the national helpline and any contractors.
- **Public awareness campaign.** The CDA will need to procure professional services from an external source to create and implement a public awareness campaign. This contract is estimated to cost about \$73,200 per year, based on a past public awareness campaign conducted by the CDA.
- **Crisis hotline contract.** The bill requires the CDA to contract with a nationally recognized nonprofit that represents health professionals and educators focused on health disparities found in the agricultural community. The cost of this contractor is estimated at approximately \$1 per producer, totaling approximately \$83,000 per year.
- **Mental health contractor.** To develop a mental wellness plan for agricultural workers affected by natural disasters, the CDA will contract with a mental health professional. The cost of this contract is estimated at approximately \$50,000 based on a similar contract entered into by the CDA. This cost is only required for FY24-25.

Department of Human Services and the Behavioral Health Administration. Expenditures and workload in DHS and the BHA may increase to the extent that they are required to collaborate with the CDA in implementing the requirements in the bill.

Department of Law. The CDA may require general counsel support to promulgate rules for the program. This can be accomplished within existing legal services appropriations within the department.

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, an indirect cost rate of 10 percent, 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 \$264,944 to the Department of Agriculture and 0.5 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture	Human Services	Information Technology
Law	Behavioral Health Administration	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](#).