



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Summary

Date: February 5, 2024 **Fiscal Analyst:** Clayton Mayfield (303-866-5851)

LCS TITLE: ESTABLISH QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 145

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State revenue. The measure will increase state revenue from fees charged to individuals that apply for and receive a veterinary professional associate (VPA) registration. Fee revenue will be used by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to administer regulation of VPAs. Depending on the number of VPAs, program costs, and when VPAs register, the measure could increase state revenue by about \$300,000 every other year, assuming a two-year registration cycle. Additionally, since the measure makes it a class 2 misdemeanor to practice veterinary medicine as a VPA without an active registration, the measure may increase criminal fines and fees if individuals do not comply with the provisions of the measure.

State expenditures. The measure will increase state expenditures in DORA to administer the regulatory program for VPAs by about \$150,000 per year, assuming registrations and costs are similar to the existing program regulating veterinary technicians. Expenditures will be covered by fees charged to VPAs. Additionally, the measure may increase workload in the trial courts to the extent criminal cases are generated from individuals who violate the provisions of the measure.

Local government impact. Similar to the state, county jail costs may increase to the extent individuals are convicted and sentenced to jail time for the class 2 misdemeanor in the measure.

Economic impacts. While the bill will allow additional professionals to provide veterinary services, overall the impact on the veterinary sector and the state economy is estimated to be minimal.