

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 08-0786

Date: July 1, 2008

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Shaffer
Rep. Primavera

Bill Status: Signed into Law

Fiscal Analyst: Amy Larsen (303-866-3488)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN AUTISM COMMISSION.

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes the Colorado Autism Commission with the purpose of studying issues related to autism and developing a 10-year strategic plan for the state to address the growing number of individuals with autism who need services. The commission consists of 24 members, appointed by the Governor, who serve without compensation. The commission is to meet at least 6 times, and must submit a final report to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than October 1, 2009. The report must include the commission's findings, a ten-year strategic plan, legislative proposals, and recommendations concerning state department procedures and rules.

The bill also requires the executive director of the Department of Human Services to designate a non-profit organization to be the custodian of funds and provide administrative support for the commission. All costs of the commission must be paid by contributions from private sources.

The bill was signed by the Governor and became law on April 14, 2008.

Assessment

The bill is assessed at no fiscal impact. The Department of Human Services (DHS) will develop selection criteria, solicit interest from nonprofit agencies, and designate one agency to be the custodian of funds for the commission. DHS will also have 4 staff members on the commission. Additional representatives from 4 other state departments and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education will serve on the Colorado Autism Commission. However, these activities are not expected to significantly impact the workload of any state agency.

The fiscal note assumes that any recommendations of the commission requiring additional funding for services to persons with autism will be addressed through future legislation. Thus, no state appropriations are required.

For informational purposes, the commission is expected to require gifts, grants, donations, and in-kind services of approximately \$180,000 to complete its duties as outlined in the bill. Should the commission not receive this level of support from private sources, it may not be able to meet its statutory requirements.

Departments Contacted

Human Services
Labor and Employment
Office of the Governor

Education
Higher Education
Treasury

Public Health and Environment
Health Care Policy and Financing