

FACT SHEET

SB 09-005

**Senator Nancy Spence and Rep. Dianne Primavera
FOR: House Health and Human Services Committee**

DATE: March 12, 2009

TITLE: Concerning the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program

PURPOSE: The bill addresses necessary statutory changes required for the optimal functioning of this program. The changes in this bill will enable the TBI Program to work more effectively on behalf of persons with TBI. The Colorado Department of Human Services supports the passage of this bill because it will allow the TBI Program to operate more efficiently and effectively. The bill:

- Expands the definition of traumatic brain injury to include blast injuries, like those experienced by active military service members;
- Identifies and clarifies the composition of the Board;
- Requires the board to determine, within a limited range, the amounts to be spent annually on direct services for persons with traumatic brain injuries, education services related to increasing the understanding of traumatic brain injury, and research related to the treatment and understanding of traumatic brain injury;
- Preserves all unexpended and unencumbered funds of the TBI Program to be used solely for the purposes within this statute;
- Removes the repeal date for the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Program; and
- Makes what is known as a conforming amendment, so that changes become effective immediately upon execution of the bill by the Governor.

BACKGROUND: The TBI Trust Fund Board and the TBI Program have been in existence for just four years. The Board is an active and working Board that contributes tremendously to the ability of this Program to provide effective services. All three program areas are fully operational. All program areas could make use of additional funding from the reserves, if it was made available. The Program has only 1.5FTE.

The TBI Program provides service to both children and adults in Colorado. Due to TBI being the signature injury of returning military service members, as well as increasing occurrence and diagnosis of TBI in the general population, the need for services, research and education will remain constant and is expected to grow.

The Program receives no General Fund but is solely supported by surcharges attached to speeding and driving while intoxicated or under the influence violations. Minor changes to the determination of how program monies are spent by the Board will allow for fluctuations in both need and income.

The Program has been given the responsibility for implementation of the recently signed Executive Order on TBI. This Order asked more than a dozen state agencies to collaborate and coordinate on services available to people with TBI as well as their families, with a focus on veterans with TBI.