

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

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Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Mitchell V.
Sen. Sandoval

Bill Status: House Local Government

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TITLE: CONCERNING GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF TRACKING TECHNOLOGY BY COUNTIES TO LOCATE PEOPLE WHO BECOME LOST AS A RESULT OF A COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009
State Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Expenditures		
General Fund Appropriation to the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund	\$ 380,000	\$ 0
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008: See State Appropriations section of the fiscal note.		
Local Government Impact: Makes funding for Lifesaver Programs available to counties.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill encourages counties to implement Lifesaver Programs to assist county sheriffs' departments in locating persons who wander due to a medical condition. The Department of Public Safety is to administer a grant program providing funding to counties for capital equipment costs and initial training of up to \$10,000 per county. The bill specifies that a maximum of \$380,000 be made available for administrative costs and grants to counties.

Background

Lifesaver Programs allow law enforcement agencies to use tracking and monitoring equipment to quickly track persons with Alzheimer's and other diseases who wander away from home. Under the program, care givers of such persons register with a participating law enforcement agency, and the agency provides the person with a transmitter, which the person wears at all times. If the person wanders away from his or her home, the agency can track the signal emitted from the transmitter to locate the person. Currently, Lifesaver Programs are operating in 40 states, including Colorado. In Colorado, programs are available in Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, Jefferson, and Mesa counties.

State Revenue

The bill does not bring in additional state revenue. However, it does create the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund which is expected to receive \$380,000 from the General Fund in FY 2007-08 only.

State Expenditures

State expenditures in the Department of Public Safety are expected to increase \$380,000 in FY 2007-08 only from the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund. Of the total, personal services of \$9,648 are required to develop, review, prioritize, and monitor the grant process. The balance, \$370,352, is available for grants to counties.

Expenditures Not Included

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, funding for the items noted below will not be included in fiscal note expenditure estimates.

- group health, life and dental insurance
- inflation indices
- amortization equalization disbursements
- supplemental amortization equalization disbursements
- short-term disability
- leased space
- indirect costs

Local Government Impact

The bill makes grant money available to counties for start-up costs related to implementing Lifesaver Programs. The maximum amount that a county may receive is \$10,000. A basic equipment package of two receivers, two transmitters, and initial training costs about \$6,000. Each additional transmitter is about \$275. Thus, a \$10,000 grant would cover the basic package and 14 additional transmitters. Counties that choose to implement programs will also incur increased costs for on-going administrative and legal activities.

Potential Cost Avoidance. Participating counties are expected to avoid costs as a result of quicker searches for those who wander while wearing a transmitter. According to information from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, traditional searches for a person with Alzheimer's disease may take 9 hours, costing \$12,000. Searches for participants wearing Lifesaver transmitters are reduced to about 30 minutes, costing \$200. If a county is able to reduce one search from 9 hours to 30 minutes through the Lifesaver Program, the county would avoid costs of about \$1,800. If the county also receives a \$10,000 grant, the savings could increase to \$11,800. At this time, county savings are not estimated because it is unknown how many counties will implement Lifesaver Programs, how many transmitters will be issued, and how many searches may be affected.

State Appropriations

For FY 2007-08, the fiscal note indicates that the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund should receive a General Fund appropriation of \$380,000. Then, the Department of Public Safety should receive a cash funds appropriation of \$380,000 from the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund.

Departments Contacted

Public Safety
Local Affairs

Human Services