

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE and LOCAL
FINAL FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0308

Date: June 8, 2007

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

Bill Status: Signed into Law

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

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 2007-08	FY2008-09
State Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 0
Transfers and Diversions		
Cash Funds Exempt Transfer from the Short-term Innovative Health Program Grant Fund to the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund	(\$125,000)	(\$130,000)
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds Exempt - Lifesaver Program Cash Fund	\$ 125,000	\$ 130,000
FTE Position Change	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE
Effective Date: The bill was signed by the Governor and became law on May 30, 2007.		
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

The 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.

Transfers and Diversions

The bill directs the State Treasurer to transfer \$125,000 from the Short-term Innovative Health Program Grant Fund to the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund in FY 2007-08. The fiscal note assumes that a similar transfer will be made in FY 2008-09, and in FY 2009-10, the amount will increase to \$130,000 for a three-year total of \$380,000.

Background. SB07-97, which has been signed into law, reallocates a portion of the state's tobacco settlement money that is currently credited to the General Fund and Tobacco Litigation Settlement Trust Fund to funds for both new and existing health care programs. One of the new programs provides funding for short-term grants for innovative health programs (Short-term Innovative Health Program Grant Fund). For FY 2007-08, this program was allocated \$1.0 million; HB07-1064 reduces money from the fund by \$125,000 or 12.5 percent. A number of other bills under consideration by the General Assembly also reduce money from the fund.

State Expenditures

State expenditures in the Department of Public Safety are expected to increase \$125,000 and 0.1 FTE in FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09 from the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund. Of the total, personal services of \$4,824 are required to develop, review, prioritize, and monitor the grant process. The balance, \$120,176, is available for grants to counties. Grants are limited to \$10,000. Thus, 12 counties are expected to receive grants each year. In FY 2009-10, total expenditures increase to \$130,000 and 0.1 FTE, based on anticipated program funding.

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 Department of Public Safety should receive a cash funds exempt appropriation of \$125,000 and 0.1 FTE from the Lifesaver Program Cash Fund.

Note: The appropriation included in SB07-097 from the Short-term Innovative Health Program Grant Fund to the Department of Public Health and Environment will also need to be adjusted to reflect the requirements of HB07-1064.

Departments Contacted

Public Safety

Human Services

Local Affairs