


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 08-0416

Date: June 4, 2008

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Weissmann
Sen. Tupa

Bill Status: Signed into Law

Fiscal Analyst: Marc Carey (303-866-4102)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2008-2009	FY 2009-2010
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: The bill was signed by the Governor and became law on March 18, 2008.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2008-2009: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the Governor's Energy Office as the successor to the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation. The amended bill specifies that the office shall:

- work with communities, utilities, private and public organizations, and individuals to promote renewable energy;
- develop programs to promote high performance buildings for commercial and residential markets;
- make state government more energy efficient;
- promote technology transfer and economic development;
- advance energy efficiency and renewable energy throughout the state;
- distribute money to the Renewable Energy Authority;
- provide information and technical assistance concerning energy codes to counties and municipalities;
- provide public utilities with assistance, if requested, in seeking and obtaining support and sponsorship for an integrated gasification combined cycle generation facility;
- collaborate with the Department of Higher Education to develop renewable energy curricula to serve the workforce needs of renewable energy industries; and
- annually report to the House and Senate Agriculture committees.

In addition, the bill expands the authorized uses for moneys in the Clean Energy Fund to assist in developing community college-level curricula on alternative and renewable energies for use in workforce training for renewable energy jobs. The bill also authorizes the office to use fund moneys to make grants and loans. In determining whether to make a grant or loan, the bill requires the office to consider the following information:

- the amount of the grant or loan;
- the quantified impact on energy demand or renewable energy production that will result from the grant or loan;
- the potential economic impact of the grant or loan; and
- the public benefits expected to result from the grant or loan.

Background

Pursuant to Executive Order D 0010 07, the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation was renamed the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). The office has historically been funded with federal moneys associated with the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and litigation funding through petroleum violation escrow funds. In FY 2005-06, the office was appropriated \$4 million in state moneys from the operational account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund for home energy efficiency improvements for low-income households. In FY 2006-07, the office was continuously appropriated moneys allocated from the Limited Gaming Fund to the newly created Clean Energy Fund, projected to be \$7.7 million in FY 2007-08 and \$12.5 in FY 2008-09. That fund also includes a \$3.5 million balance of the moneys that had been appropriated for low-income energy assistance. In FY 2007-08, the office's budget is comprised of 14 percent federal funds, and 86 percent state money from the Clean Energy Fund. The state's share will increase in the coming years as federal funding is expected to decline.

State Expenditures

This bill expands the statutory duties of the GEO. The bill also specifies that moneys in the Clean Energy Fund may be used by the GEO to:

- assist in developing community college-level curricula in alternative and renewable energy; and
- make grants or loans to individuals, businesses or governmental entities for advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy.

While this bill expands the duties and powers of the office, the aggregate amount of state funding within the Clean Energy Fund, which is *continuously appropriated* to the office, is unaffected.

Departments Contacted

Governor's Office