

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**STATE**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 10-0330

**Date:** February 11, 2010

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Gerou; Gagliardi  
Sen. Boyd

**Bill Status:** House Health and Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE COLORADO PODIATRY BOARD.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
<b>State Revenue</b> General Fund	< \$5,000	< \$5,000
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2010.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill implements the recommendations of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) in its sunset review of the Colorado Podiatry Board and continues the functions of the board until July 1, 2019. Among its many provisions, the bill:

- ▶ allows a licensed podiatrist to perform additional types of surgery;
- ▶ increases the minimum amount of professional liability insurance a licensed podiatrist must carry;
- ▶ creates a podiatry training license for persons in residency programs and a voluntary license for retired podiatrists;
- ▶ requires completion of a 1-year approved residency program and requires that applicants for an initial license demonstrate 2 years of active practice of podiatry;
- ▶ prohibits the public member of the board from being a licensed healthcare professional or being employed in the healthcare industry and repeals the office of the secretary from the board;
- ▶ allows the board to impose a fine for violations of the practice act in lieu of suspending a license;
- ▶ increases the time in which a podiatrist must respond to complaints; and
- ▶ clarifies definitions and removes obsolete language.

## **Background**

Podiatrists are trained in the medical and surgical treatment of the human foot and ankle. In addition to treating common foot-health issues such as bunions and ingrown toenails, podiatrists may also prescribe drugs and physical therapy, set fractures, and perform certain types of surgery. Podiatrists may also fit corrective shoe inserts (orthotics), design plaster casts and strapping to correct deformities, and design custom-made shoes. There are approximately 190 licensed podiatrists in the state.

In FY 2007-08, total expenditures for the State Board of Podiatry were \$51,592 and 0.3 FTE. The board is part of the Division of Registrations in the DORA and is supported by fees.

## **State Revenue and Expenditures**

This legislation authorizes the board to levy a \$5,000 fine as an alternative to suspending or revoking a license. Based on historic disciplinary activity, this authority will be used only rarely, and less than \$5,000 in fine revenue is anticipated in each fiscal year. Fine revenue is deposited into the General Fund.

The legislation requires that the state board review and revise existing rules and policies governing the regulation of podiatrists. This rule and policy revision will be accomplished in the normal course of business for the board. This legislation also creates new license types for retired podiatrists and for podiatrists in training. Application procedures will need to be developed; however, since the number of new licenses is anticipated to be small, the effort necessary to add these types can be accomplished with existing resources. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact on state expenditures.

## **Departments Contacted**

Regulatory Agencies