



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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 11-0730

**Date:** February 22, 2011

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Jones  
 Sen. Heath

**Bill Status:** House Economic and Business Development  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Kirk Mlinek (303-866-4782)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SMALL BUSINESS NAVIGATOR BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER UNDER THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Transfers or Diversions</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

*This fiscal note should be considered preliminary as no response to a request for information has been received from the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The fiscal note will be revised if new information is received that changes the assessment of the bill.*

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires the Small Business Assistance Center in the Office of Economic Development and International Trade to create a small business navigator (navigator), intended to serve as a single point of contact for small businesses. The navigator will be designed to facilitate and assist small businesses by:

- diagnosing problems;
- making referrals to small business development centers, the University of Colorado's Business Advancement Center, and other organizations;
- providing information regarding state government contracting offices and related processes;
- providing assistance with state rules; and
- conducting any required follow-up.

## **Background**

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade provides financial and technical assistance in support of local and regional economic development activities throughout the state. The office offers a myriad of programs and services tailored to support business development at every level. Programs include business retention and relocation services, business finance and incentive programs, the Colorado Tourism Office, the Colorado Council on the Arts, the Colorado International Trade Office, the Colorado Small Business Development Centers, minority and women-owned business services and economic research.

The Small Business Development Center has the statutory charge to provide comprehensive information on the federal, state, and local requirements necessary to begin a business, including making such information available to the public. Upon request, the center has the authority to accept and expend moneys from nonstate sources for purposes of performing specific projects, studies, or procedural reviews, or to provide assistance, as long as requested services are consistent with the purposes of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Services are rendered at no charge; however, fees may be charged for review and approval of specific permit applications.

## **State Expenditures**

The bill sets forth new requirements for the Office of Economic Development and International Trade that are similar to many existing programs and resources offered to small businesses. This, along with the fact that several of the requirements in the bill, e.g., "diagnosing problems," and "conducting any required follow-up" are open-ended, makes it difficult to estimate the extent to which the bill will increase the office's workload. This fiscal note acknowledges that implementation of the bill likely will increase the office's workload, although the actual increase could vary widely and any need for additional appropriations is unknown. Unless additional staff resources are provided, it is assumed the level of increased small business assistance will be minimal. This fiscal note will be revised if further information becomes available.

## **Departments Contacted**

Governor      OSPB