

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0873

Date: March 14, 2012

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Acree; Kefalas

Bill Status: House Finance

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures General Fund	\$3,000,000	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Because of time constraints in scheduling this bill, state agencies have not had the opportunity to review the bill. Therefore, this fiscal note is preliminary and will be revised for a future committee meeting to reflect any new information received.

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes the following changes concerning assistance to the elderly:

- encourages the State Board of Human Services to raise the standard allowance under the Old Age Pension Program from \$699 per month to \$725 per month; and
- sets the family income limit for seniors to be eligible for services through the dental assistance program in the Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) at 135 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Background

The Dental Assistance Program in the DPHE provides grants to dental providers to provide services to eligible individuals, including eligible seniors who are 60 years of age and eligible for Old Age Pension (and under the bill, who have income of less than 135 percent of the FPL). Grants to providers are subject to available appropriations and for the last several years this program has **not been funded** by the General Assembly.

State Expenditures

The costs of the bill are described below.

Dental services and administration. The bill increases General Fund appropriations in the DPHE by \$3.0 million in FY 2012-13 to fund dental services for eligible seniors. The DPHE will have increased costs to administer the program that is not currently operational, including personal service costs, rule making, and other duties. These costs have not been estimated in this preliminary fiscal note, but are assumed to be paid from the \$3.0 million appropriation included in the bill. Funds remaining after these administrative expenses will be used to make grants to dental providers and serve eligible seniors. The number of provider that will participate and the number of eligible seniors that will be served also have not been estimated at this time.

Old Age Pension allowance. The encouragement to the State Board of Human Services will not increase costs. The decision to increase the monthly pension amount is at the discretion of the state board and it is assumed any change in funding will be implemented through the annual budget process.

State Appropriations

The bill includes an appropriation of \$3.0 million to the DPHE from the General Fund in FY 2012-13.

Departments Contacted

Public Health and Environment
Health Care Policy and Financing

Human Services
Counties