

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 13-0399  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Lee  
 Sen. Kefalas

**Date:** February 11, 2013  
**Bill Status:** House Business, Labor, Economic, and  
 Workforce Development  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING BENEFIT CORPORATIONS.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2013-2014</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
Cash Funds		
Department of State Cash Fund	<\$500	<\$250
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
Cash Funds		
Department of State Cash Fund	\$79,920	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2014, assuming no referendum petition is filed.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill establishes the requirements for a corporation to be created as, or elect to become, a benefit corporation. A benefit corporation must identify its corporate purpose as promoting either a general public benefit or a specific public benefit, or both. Specific public benefits may include improving human health, preserving the environment, or providing low-income individuals with beneficial products or services, among others. In addition, a benefit corporation may consider how corporate decisions affect its employees, the community, and the environment. To the extent required in its articles of incorporation or by resolution of its shareholders or directors, a benefit corporation is required to prepare an annual report discussing its general or specific public benefits and assessing the overall social and environmental performance of the benefit corporation using third-party standards. No third-party evaluation or certification is required for such an assessment.

When a benefit corporation is formed as a new business, it must state that it is a benefit corporation in its articles of incorporation. An existing business can elect to become a benefit corporation by amending its articles of incorporation with two-thirds votes by each class of shareholders. A shareholder is entitled to dissent and obtain payment of the fair market value of the shareholder's shares in the event of a corporation merger or election to become, or cease to be, a benefit corporation.

### **State Revenue**

This bill is expected to increase revenue by less than \$500 in FY 2013-14, and less than \$250 in FY 2014-15, to the Department of State Cash Fund. The revenue is from existing corporations converting to benefit corporations. The current fee to amend articles of incorporation is \$25. As of 2012, there were ten corporations in Colorado that are already certified as benefit corporations by an independent organization. The fiscal note assumes that each of these corporations will amend their articles of incorporation to convert to a benefit corporation under Colorado law, resulting in \$250 in revenue in FY 2013-14. Other corporations may also elect to become benefit corporations, but this number is unknown and assumed to generate less than \$250 in new revenue in FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15.

The fiscal note assumes that new organizations that incorporate as benefit corporations will incorporate regardless of this legislation, so no other increase in revenue is expected.

### **State Expenditures**

The Department of State must modify its computer system to accommodate the requirements of benefit corporations. This effort is expected to cost **\$79,920 in FY 2013-14** for 1,080 hours of contract computer programming time at a rate of \$74 per hour. These costs are paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, which has sufficient funds from existing fee revenue to cover this expense.

### **State Appropriations**

The Department of State requires a cash funds appropriation of \$79,920 for FY 2013-14 from the Department of State Cash Fund.

### **Departments Contacted**

State