

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0991	Date: July 28, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Heath; Johnston	Bill Status: Signed into Law
Rep. McLachlan; Pabon	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

SHORT TITLE: PROSECUTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures**		<u>\$356,496</u>
General Fund		\$356,496
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the Prosecution Fellowship Program in the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Beginning with FY 2015-16, the DHE will provide money to the Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) to fund fellowships for recent Colorado law school graduates, allowing them to pursue careers as prosecutors in rural areas.

The program will match law school graduates for one-year fellowships with district attorneys' offices (DAs) throughout rural Colorado. The fellowship program may fund the salary and benefits for up to six graduates each year chosen from the University of Colorado School of Law and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The program must also provide the fellow with a five-day training practicum. To have its graduates considered for participation, each law school must contribute an amount equal to 20 percent of the cost of the fellowship salary.

The bill creates the seven-member Prosecution Fellowship Committee to select fellows and fellowship locations. The committee includes the executive director of the CDAC, the deans of the two law schools, and four elected DAs. The committee must develop an application process and determine selection criteria. Members of the committee serve without compensation.

No later than January 1, 2019, the CDAC must report to the General Assembly details concerning the program's performance.

State Expenditures

Beginning with FY 2015-16, this bill increases state expenditures by \$356,496. State expenses are for a portion of each fellow's salary, for benefits, and for provision of a five-day training practicum. Twenty percent of the salary cost (\$61,200) will be provided by the law schools, for a total expense of \$417,696. State expenditures are displayed in Table 1 and described below.

Cost Components	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
Salaries		\$244,800
Qualified Retirement Contributions and Medicare		35,496
Benefits		61,200
5-Day Fellowship Practicum		15,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$356,496

Salaries and benefits. The largest cost component of the bill are salaries and benefits for six fellows to serve as district attorneys in rural areas. Assuming a base salary of \$51,000, contributions to qualified retirement plans, statutorily required contributions for Medicare, and 20 percent of salaries for benefits (e.g., health, life, and dental insurance), total salaries, retirement, and benefits are \$417,696 each year. The law schools are required to contribute 20 percent of the salary cost for each fellow, which reduces state expenditures by \$61,200.

Fellowship practicum. The bill requires that fellows chosen for the program attend a five-day training practicum conducted by the CDAC. The training practicum will be hosted by either of the two law schools, and trainers will be volunteers from DA offices in the state. The CDAC will create the content for the training practicum. The cost for each practicum is estimated at \$15,000; however, the CDAC has sufficient resources to create the content and deliver the practicum training within existing resources, and no further appropriation is required for this cost component.

Prosecution Fellowship Committee. The CDAC must convene and coordinate an advisory committee to help select fellows and match them with rural DA offices. The effort to staff and coordinate committee activities can be accomplished within existing resources.

Department of Higher Education. Beginning with FY 2015-16, the DHE will pass funds through the department to the CDAC to implement the bill. The controller at DHE can transfer these funds without additional resources.

Local Government Impact

The bill has the potential to supplement DA staff in rural areas with sufficient need. DA offices are funded in part by the counties in which the judicial district operates. Fellows from the program will add to the staffs of rural DAs, and not replace county DAs. For this reason, the bill is not anticipated to impact county budgets.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 19, 2014, and takes effect August 6, 2014, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education

CDAC