



STATE FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0464
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Garcia
 Sen. Crowder

Date: February 7, 2014
Bill Status: House Local Government
Fiscal Analyst: Kelli Kelty (303-866-3518)

SHORT TITLE: PRESERVE & EXPAND AMTRAK INTERSTATE RAIL SERVICE

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>\$1,584</u>	<u>\$3,168</u>
General Fund	\$1,584	\$3,168
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: \$1,584 - Department of Transportation (FY 2014-15)		

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a nine-member Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance Commission (commission). The commission is comprised of two legislative members and seven members representing different groups and agencies, including the rail industry, tourist industry, and citizens of southeast Colorado. The bill specifies that members must be appointed no later than September 1, 2014, and serve without compensation but will receive reimbursement for expenses.

The charge of the commission is to oversee efforts by state and local governments, and cooperate with Kansas and New Mexico, Amtrak, and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to ensure continuation of existing Amtrak southwest chief rail line service in the state. The commission will also seek to ensure expansion of service to include a stop in Pueblo and explore the benefits of adding a stop in Walsenburg.

In addition, the bill creates the Southwest Chief Rail Line Economic Development, Rural Tourism, and Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance Fund (fund) in the State Treasury. The fund consists of monies received by the state from the federal government, local governments, public-private partnerships, or any other person, or as appropriated by the General Assembly, or as a result of any voter-approved ballot measure.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state General Fund expenditures by \$1,584 in FY 2014-15 and \$3,168 each year thereafter. FY 2014-15 expenses are one-half future years expenses due to the bill's effective date.

Member reimbursement. Commission members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for expenses. These expenses are estimated at \$3,168, based on four meetings per year.

Although a representative of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will be required to serve on the commission, the fiscal note assumes that this requirement can be absorbed within existing resources and will not require additional appropriations.

Technical or Mechanical Defects

The bill does not indicate which state agency or entity will house the commission or how the commission will be funded. The fiscal note assumes that the commission will be housed in the CDOT. This assumption is based on the CDOT's purview over transit and rail. In addition, the fiscal note assumes that the reimbursement for expenses of the commission members will be funded by a General Fund appropriation. Further clarifying amendments may be required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 6, 2014, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 7, 2014, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2014-15, the Department of Transportation requires a General Fund appropriation of \$1,584.

State and Local Government Contacts

Local Affairs
Regional Transportation District

Transportation
Cities and Counties