HB14-1099

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number:	LLS 14-0523	**Date:**	January 27, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s):	Rep. Schafer Sen. Aguilar	**Bill Status:**	House Health, Insurance, & Environment
		Fiscal Analyst:	Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

SHORT TITLE: OPTOMETRISTS PRESCRIPTION DRUG AUTHORITY

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, optometrists can only prescribe Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances to patients for ophthalmic purposes. The bill expands the definition of the practice of optometry to allow optometrists to prescribe hydrocodone and hydrocodone combination drugs even when these drugs are classified as Schedule I or II medications. The bill also permits optometrists to charge a fee to patients when prescribing and dispensing any medications for ophthalmic purposes.

State Expenditures

The bill may result in a minimal workload increase for the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The Division of Professions and Occupations within DORA is responsible for licensing and monitoring optometrists. The bill may require the division to conduct additional rulemaking to reflect the new prescription drug authority of optometrists. The division could accomplish this task within existing appropriations. The State Board of Pharmacy, also within DORA, maintains a table outlining the prescriptive authority of medical providers. The board would need to update this table in order to reflect the changes to optometry under the bill. This also increases workload by a minimal amount and will be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Health and Environment	Health Care Policy and Financing
Human Services	Regulatory Agencies