SB14-047

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number:	LLS 14-0236	**Date:**	January 16, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s):	Sen. Tochtrop; Roberts	**Bill Status:**	Senate Local Government
		Fiscal Analyst:	Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

SHORT TITLE: WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS DEATH BENEFIT PAYMENTS.

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures General Fund	Potential increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

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

Summary of Legislation

Currently, seasonal wildland firefighters employed by the state or local governments generally do not receive any health or insurance benefits. This bill, recommended by the ***Wildfire Matters Review Committee,*** provides a lump-sum death benefit of $10,000 to the survivors of seasonal wildland firefighters killed in the line of duty. The Director of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is required to make lump-sum payments, as specified in the bill. These one-time payments are intended to help cover burial costs and out-of-pocket expenses. The division director can make payments from any cash fund within the division. The DPS will be reimbursed from the general fund for all lump-sum death benefit payments made through future appropriations by the General Assembly.

State Expenditures

Historically, the DPS has experienced one line-of-duty death among seasonal wildland firefighters every two years, which would qualify for the death benefit under the bill. These data imply that the DPS will have costs of $10,000 every two years, but actual costs will vary. Because the DPS may pay the death benefits from any cash fund and then be reimbursed from the general fund, the fiscal note indicates these costs as being paid from the general fund. Any future general fund appropriations are assumed to be provided to the DPS through the annual budget process, rather than in this bill.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Safety Law