

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 15-0887	<b>Date:</b> July 8, 2015
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Willett; Lebsack Sen. Balmer; Scott	<b>Bill Status:</b> Signed into Law
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

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**BILL TOPIC:** BEAR CONTROL

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Increased workload and costs.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

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

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires the Division of Parks and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources to study available tools for better management of black bear populations to address bear-human conflicts and public safety. The division will report its findings to the relevant house and senate committees by December 31, 2015.

**Background**

There are an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 black bears statewide.

**State Expenditures**

The study required by the bill will increase the workload and costs of the Division of Parks and Wildlife in FY 2015-16 only. Division staff will collect information on wildlife management tools and evaluate their effectiveness for the state's black bear population. This will include stakeholder meetings in areas of the state where bear-human interactions are more frequent, and some travel will be required. Division staff will compile their findings into a final report by December 31, 2015.

The fiscal note assumes that the increased workload and operating costs can be addressed with existing appropriations. If additional resources are needed, the department will submit a supplemental budget request.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 8, 2015 and takes effect August 5, 2015, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Natural Resources