

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0708	Date: March 5, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Steadman Rep. Hamner	Bill Status: Senate Judiciary
	Fiscal Analyst: Kerry White (303-866-3469)

BILL TOPIC: SPENDING SAVINGS FROM EARNED TIME IN DOC

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	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

Recommended by the Joint Budget Committee, this bill limits the amount of earned time savings that may be used towards education and parole programs in the Department of Corrections (DOC) to \$5 million per year. The department is directed to prioritize the use of this funding for parole wrap-around services that are administered based on evidence-based practices.

Background

House Bill 12-1223 expanded eligibility for accruing earned time to include offenders who were convicted for felony offenses that occurred on or after July 1, 1993, and who were reincarcerated under a parole revocation. The bill also created a new category of earned time called "achievement earned time," and authorized (at the discretion of the DOC executive director) awarding up to 60 days of additional earned time per program milestone or phase, or per instance of exceptional conduct, to a maximum of 120 days. The General Fund savings from that bill was to be expended on education and parole programs in the DOC. According to Joint Budget Committee Staff, savings have accumulated faster than anticipated and could reach \$20 million in a few years.

State Expenditures

By limiting the amount of earned time savings that is redirected towards DOC programs, the bill allows excess General Fund moneys to be appropriated by the General Assembly for other purposes.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections

Joint Budget Committee Staff