HB15-1057

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note



Drafting Number:	LLS 15-0005	Date:	January 28, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s):	Rep. Court; DelGrosso		House SVMA
	Sen. Sonnenberg; Hod	ge Fiscal Analyst:	Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

BILL TOPIC: THE STATEWIDE INITIATIVE PROCESS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017			
State Revenue					
State Expenditures	\$22,255	<u>\$22,404</u>			
General Fund	18,414	18,414			
Centrally Appropriated Costs**	3,841	3,990			
FTE Position Change	0.3 FTE	0.3 FTE			
Appropriation Required: \$18,414 - Legislative Department					

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

** These costs are not included in the bill's appropriation. See the State Expenditures section for more information.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Legislative Council Staff (LCS) prepares fiscal impact statements for all citizen-initiated measures that are certified for the statewide ballot. This bill requires that the LCS prepare initial fiscal impact statements for all measures submitted to the title board.

The initial fiscal impact statement must include an abstract describing the measure's effect on state and local government revenues, expenditures, taxes, and fiscal liabilities, as well as a two-sentence fiscal impact summary. The LCS must submit the statement to the proponents and the title board prior to the meeting at which the measure's ballot title will be set, and post it on the LCS website. Both the abstract and the summary must appear on initiative petitions circulated for signature collection. The bill permits the LCS to later update the fiscal impact summary, if necessary, when preparing a fiscal impact statement for the Blue Book, the official voter guide for statewide ballot measures.

The bill also requires both designated representatives of the initiative proponents to appear at all review and comment meetings. If either of the two representatives fails to appear, the initiative will be considered withdrawn, although proponents may resubmit their initiative. Further, the bill encourages proponents to submit their own estimate of the measure's fiscal impact to the LCS, and it allows them to submit an estimate to the title board along with the measure. The version submitted to the title board may be amended from the original version.

The bill requires the LCS to consider any fiscal impact estimate submitted by the initiative proponents. The LCS and the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) may provide comments about the fiscal impact submitted by proponents at the review and comment meeting. The Secretary of State must immediately provide the LCS and OLLS with a copy of each measure properly submitted to the title board and the proponents' fiscal impact estimate, if the estimate was amended.

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Background

Current law requires the LCS to prepare fiscal impact statements for ballot measures as part of its Blue Book analysis. The Blue Book is the official voter guide for statewide ballot measures and includes a summary and analysis of each ballot measure, an estimate of its fiscal impact and a description of the arguments for and against a measure. It is distributed to all registered voter households about one month prior to election day. Under current law, ballot initiative proponents generally do not submit a fiscal impact estimate of their measure.

State Expenditures

The bill increase expenditures for the LCS by \$22,255 in FY 2015-16 and \$22,404 in FY 2016-17. Table 1 summarizes expenditures under the bill.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HB 15-1057					
Cost Components	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17			
Personal Services	\$18,414	\$18,414			
FTE	0.3 FTE	0.3 FTE			
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$3,841	\$3,990			
TOTAL	\$22,255	\$22,404			

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Assumptions. This fiscal note assumes that the title board will consider about 40 ballot initiatives per year, or roughly the same number that it considered over the past seven years. The fiscal note also assumes that each new ballot initiative fiscal impact statement will require about 14 hours of staff time, including research, drafting, editing, and review.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under HB 15-1057*					
Cost Components	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17			
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$2,414	\$2,414			
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	\$1,427	\$1,576			
TOTAL	\$3,841	\$3,990			

*More information is available at: http://colorado.gov/fiscalnotes

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2016, if no referendum petition is filed.

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State Appropriations

The bill requires an appropriation of \$18,414 in FY 2015-16 to the Legislative Department for allocation to the LCS.

State and Local Government Contacts

State Legislative Council Staff Office of Legislative Legal Services