



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1325

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0810
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Garnett

Date: March 21, 2016
Bill Status: House Transportation and Energy
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BILL TOPIC: CAUCUS & ELECTION DATES ON VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2015-2016 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue			
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase.	Conditional minimal workload increase.	
Appropriation Required: None.			
Future Year Impacts: Potential ongoing minimal workload increase.			

Summary of Legislation

Subject to the limitations listed below, the bill requires the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to display messages on its variable message signs regarding the dates of precinct caucuses and statewide elections beginning seven days before and concluding at 7 P.M. on the caucus or election date. The Secretary of State must notify CDOT of these election dates at least 21 days in advance.

CDOT must promptly seek federal approval to implement the bill. If the U.S. Department of Transportation or its agencies advise CDOT that displaying election-related messages will result in the reduction of federal aid highway funds to the state, CDOT must not display the messages.

CDOT may give priority to other alerts (i.e. Amber alerts) and safety-related messages, and nothing in the bill alters any Department of Public Safety procedures related to these alerts.

Background

Federal highway guidelines regarding variable message sign use stipulate that these signs are to be used solely for traffic control purposes, however, there are exceptions to allow for these signs to display public safety messages. It is unknown whether election-related messages would gain federal approval. CDOT has over 340 active variable message signs.

State Expenditures

The bill requires CDOT to seek federal approval to post election-related notices on its variable message signs in FY 2015-16. If federal approval is granted, the bill will minimally increase workload in CDOT and the SOS beginning in FY 2016-17 as described below. These workload impacts can be accomplished within the existing appropriations of both agencies.

CDOT. Workload in CDOT will minimally increase to communicate with the SOS and to program election-related messages into the variable message sign database.

SOS. The SOS will be required to inform CDOT of election dates at least 21 days in advance of an election.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Secretary of State

Transportation