



Colorado Legislative Council Staff
LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 06-0921
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Garcia
 Sen. Spence

Date: March 21, 2006
Bill Status: House Judiciary
Fiscal Analyst: Gary J. Estenson (303-866-4976)

TITLE: CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT FOR TRAINING TO IMPLEMENT WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08
State Revenues		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: July 1, 2006.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

This legislation requires district attorneys and law enforcement agencies to provide annual training, education, and risk-assessment programs for district attorneys and victims' advocates employed by or working with law enforcement agencies. Individual law enforcement agencies and victims' advocate groups are also encouraged to develop similar programs. The bill is effective July 1, 2006.

State Expenditures

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be required to develop training and curriculum guidelines and manuals related to witness protection. DPS personnel will establish a methodology and statistical measures to determine the likelihood that certain criminal defendants will engage in witness tampering, intimidation, or retaliation. Research will be performed on issues related to the victimization of witnesses. The bill requires the DPS to provide training annually. The fiscal note assumes the DPS will develop curriculum guidelines and risk assessment measures based on expertise provided by the state Witness Protection Board. Since DPS officers currently provide and are required to obtain continuing education units, the fiscal note assumes witness protection training will be provided as part of these trainings. While the DPS may incur some costs, these expenses will be minimal and can be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

Local district attorneys and law enforcement agencies will be required to provide the same type of training that DPS will provide. Since district attorneys currently provide and participate in an annual conference and are required to obtain continuing legal education credit, the fiscal note assumes that witness protection training will be provided in conjunction with these activities. However, while it is likely that local enforcement officers receive periodic training, all local law enforcement agencies currently do not provide an annual training session. Since this bill requires law enforcement agencies to provide training, it will have a fiscal impact on municipal police and county sheriff departments. The impact is likely to be especially burdensome for small municipalities that employ few police officers.

Departments Contacted

Public Safety

Law

District Attorneys