



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1040**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0268  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Singer

**Date:** January 14, 2016  
**Bill Status:** House Local Government  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Kori Donaldson (303-866-4976)

**BILL TOPIC:** AUXILIARY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
<b>State Revenue</b>		
General Fund		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$60,238</u></b>	
General Fund	\$60,238	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$60,238 - Department of Public Safety (FY 2016-17)		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, **recommended by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee**, creates the Auxiliary Emergency Communications Unit (unit) in the Office of Emergency Management in the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Colorado Department of Public Safety (DPS). The unit has the power to:

- establish programs for the training and credentialing of auxiliary emergency or disaster communicators across the state;
- assume all the duties and responsibilities of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES); and
- ensure that auxiliary emergency communicators are authorized volunteers entitled to the appropriate protections and benefits of emergency volunteers when assisting local governments with the maintenance or demolition of communication facilities.

In pursuance of this authority, the DPS may develop and issue photo identification cards to auxiliary communicators, conduct criminal background checks, and reimburse emergency communicators for necessary travel and other expenses incurred in performance of their duties.

Finally, the bill increases from 23 to 24 the number of members serving on the Public Safety Communications Subcommittee of the Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee in the DPS. The additional member is the section emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service of the Colorado section of the Amateur Radio Relay League.

## State Expenditures

***The bill increases state expenditures in the DPS by \$60,238 General Fund for FY 2016-17.*** The unit can anticipate credentialing approximately 200 auxiliary emergency communicators. Training, travel and other reimbursed expenses for volunteers, and issuance of identification cards is estimated to total \$15,238.

The authority to expend state funds to enhance the state's communications infrastructure, and to supplement or reinforce existing amateur radio systems and networks, is estimated to increase state expenditures by an additional \$45,000. Should federal funding become available to fund these activities, General Fund appropriations may be reduced. This fiscal note will be revised if additional information becomes available.

## Local Government Impact

The bill allows any credentialed member of the auxiliary emergency communications unit to assist local emergency response personnel as a volunteer during emergency situations, and to participate in emergency response drills and training. A qualified auxiliary emergency communicator is eligible to receive the protections and benefits of emergency volunteers.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## State Appropriations

For FY 2016-17, this bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$60,238 to the Department of Public Safety.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

Public Safety