



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1040

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

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

Date: July 13, 2016
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Kori Donaldson (303-866-4976)

BILL TOPIC: AUXILIARY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
General Fund		
State Expenditures	<u>\$60,238</u>	
General Fund	\$60,238	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: \$60,238 - Department of Public Safety (FY 2016-17)		
Future Year Impacts: 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 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.

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 was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 6, 2016.

State Appropriations

Consistent with this fiscal note, this bill appropriates \$60,238 General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for FY 2016-17.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

Public Safety

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB16-1040 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.