



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1141

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0593	Date: February 4, 2016
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Becker K.; Coram Sen. Jahn; Roberts	Bill Status: House Health, Insurance, and Environment
	Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: RADON EXPOSURE IN BUILDINGS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	\$211,642	\$312,788
Cash Funds	199,456	299,513
Centrally Appropriated Costs	12,186	13,275
FTE Position Change	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE
Appropriation Required: \$199,456 - Department of Public Health and Environment (FY 2016-17).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing state expenditure increase.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to establish a radon education and awareness program to provide information and education statewide to citizens, businesses, and others in need of information. The CDPHE will work with radon contractors and citizens to resolve questions and concerns about radon mitigation systems. The CDPHE will collaborate with local governments to provide information on best practices for radon mitigation strategies.

By January 1, 2017, the CDPHE is required to establish a radon mitigation assistance program to provide financial assistance to low-income individuals for radon mitigation services. The State Board of Health will set the program requirements, including eligibility requirements.

The bill extends the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Program Fund until 2027, but eliminates the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Oversight Committee.

Background

The CDPHE currently operates a federally funded radon program with a Pollution Prevention Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The \$300,000 grant supports a program coordinator, awareness and education materials, and test kits. Local public health agencies provide 100 percent of the matching funds required for the grant.

The Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Oversight Committee has five members; the executive director of the Department of Local Affairs and two members of both the House and Senate. The legislative members must be from districts that include uranium mill tailing sites designated for cleanup under the federal Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. The committee is set to repeal July 1, 2017, but has only been minimally active in recent years, as indicated by a lack of per diem payments for legislative members.

State Expenditures

This bill will increase cash fund expenditures by **\$211,642 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2016-17 and \$312,788 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2017-18** for the CDPHE from the Hazardous Substance Response Fund. These costs are shown in Table 1 and explained below.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HB16-1141		
Cost Components	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Personal Services	\$48,803	\$58,563
FTE	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	5,653	950
Low-income Radon Mitigation Program	80,000	160,000
Radon Awareness Advertising	50,000	50,000
Radon Test Kits	15,000	30,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	12,186	13,275
TOTAL	\$211,642	\$312,788

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

Department of Public Health and Environment. This bill will expand the current radon program in the CDPHE. An environmental protection specialist will be added to develop and administer both the radon education and awareness program and the low-income mitigation assistance program. The FY 2016-17 personal services cost reflects the mid-August effective date.

Radon education and awareness advertising requires \$50,000 per year beginning in FY 2016-17 to develop public service announcements for radio, television, and social media. The low-income radon mitigation program requires \$160,000 per year to provide radon mitigation systems to 150 homes. Installing a system in a home costs between \$800 and \$1,500. The program also requires \$30,000 per year in order to provide 2,000 free radon test kits to homeowners, local governments, and local public health agencies for the detection of radon in homes. Because the radon mitigation assistance program is effective January 1, 2017, costs for FY 2016-17 represent one half year of expenditures.

State Board of Health. The board will have an increase in workload to set the requirements for the low-income mitigation assistance program in rule. This effort can be addressed within existing appropriations.

Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Oversight Committee. Because per diem for legislative members was not paid in the past fiscal year, the fiscal note assumes that eliminating this committee will not require a change in appropriations.

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 HB16-1141		
Cost Components	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$8,010	\$8,027
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	4,176	5,248
TOTAL	\$12,186	\$13,275

Local Government Impact

All local governments that collaborate with CDPHE staff on best practices for radon mitigation strategies will have an increase in workload. Local governments that currently fund radon test kits could have a savings if CDPHE provides the kits at no cost.

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, the Department of Public Health and Environment requires an appropriation of \$199,456 and an allocation of 0.8 FTE from the Hazardous Substance Response Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

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