



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB17-1320**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 17-0398	<b>Date:</b> April 7, 2017
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Michaelson Jenet	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Public Health Care and Human Services
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Kerry White (303-866-3469)

**BILL TOPIC:** AGE OF CONSENT OUTPATIENT PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR MINORS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017 <i>(Current year)</i>	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue			
State Expenditures	Potential impact.		
Appropriation Required: None.			
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing potential expenditure impact.			

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill lowers the age required for a minor to seek and obtain outpatient psychotherapy services without parental notification or consent from 15 years or older to 10 years or older. A licensed mental health professional serving such patients is immune from civil or criminal liability unless he or she acts negligently or outside the scope of his or her practice. The bill clarifies that the age required for a minor to seek and obtain inpatient services without parental notification and consent remains 15 years of age or older.

**State Expenditures**

**Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.** Beginning in the current FY 2016-17, this bill may increase expenditures for behavioral health treatment in the Medicaid or Children's Basic Health Plan (CHP+) programs if additional youth obtain services as a result of the changes under the bill. It may also reduce costs if youth obtain earlier interventions and do not require hospitalization in the future. This analysis assumes that any change in the utilization of services is minimal and that if adjustments in appropriations are required in the future, they will be addressed through the annual budget process. For informational purposes, Medicaid and CHP+ costs are paid with a mix of General Fund, cash funds, and federal funds.

**Department of Regulatory Agencies.** Workload for the department is also increased by a minimal amount in FY 2016-17 in order to update and communicate changes in rules concerning the outpatient treatment of minors to mental health professionals. No change in appropriations is required.

**Effective Date**

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

**State and Local Government Contacts**

District Attorneys  
Health Care Policy and Financing  
Information Technology  
Public Health and Environment

Education  
Human Services  
Judicial  
Regulatory Agencies