



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 18-0365  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Danielson

**Date:** February 12, 2018  
**Bill Status:** House Public Health Care and  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Human Services  
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**Bill Topic:** COMMISSION DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:**
- State Revenue (*potential*)
  - TABOR Refund
  - State Expenditure
  - Local Government
  - State Transfer
  - Statutory Public Entity

The bill expands and redefines the powers of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis and has a potential increase in revenue.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1108**

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
<b>Revenue</b>	-	-
<b>Expenditures</b> Reappropriated Funds	-	\$11,700
<b>Transfers</b>	-	-

## Summary of Legislation

This bill clarifies and expands services that the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offer to include persons who are deafblind. The bill creates more autonomy for the commission by changing it from a type 2 to a type 1 entity. Starting in July 2019, the Colorado Deafblind Citizens Council is created to advise the commission, state and local governments, and other relevant entities on deafblind issues. The bill also gives the commission the authority to:

- provide auxiliary services to all state agencies in the Executive Branch;
- establish and maintain a community access program; and
- approve or disapprove applications for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Grant Program independent of the executive director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Finally, the bill changes the name of the commission to include deafblind and changes the membership on the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Grant Program to include additional representatives from the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community.

## Background

The Colorado Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is responsible for ensuring equal access to government services for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind in Colorado. In FY 2017-18, the commission was appropriated \$1,367,977 including \$1,229,402 reappropriated from the Telephone Users with Disability Fund in the Department of Regulatory Agencies and \$138,575 General Fund. The commission has 8.3 FTE. Under current federal law, state departments and agencies are required to provide auxiliary services and other resources to enable access for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

## State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2019-20, expenditures in the DHS will increase by \$11,700 per year to provide interpreters and support service providers to the Colorado Deafblind Citizens Council (Council) created in the bill. This cost is paid using reappropriated funds from the Telephone Users with Disability Fund. The fiscal note assumes that the Council will meet six times per year with each meeting lasting three hours. It is estimated that eight interpreters and six support service providers will be needed to assist the committee members and attendees. It is estimated that support service providers will assist with preparation and wrap-ups for one hour before and after each meeting. On average, an interpreter costs \$50 per hour and a support service provider costs \$25 per hour.

**Department of Human Services.** The DHS will also have an increase in a workload to assist the commission in providing auxiliary services to additional state agencies. The DHS plans to set up a pilot program through the commission to provide the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Employment and the Exceptional Student Services Unit in the Department of Education with auxiliary services, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations. However, if the pilot program is successful and expands in future years, costs will increase for the DHS and it is assumed that additional funding will be requested through the annual budget process.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Judicial  
Municipalities

Human Services  
Local Affairs

Information Technology  
Regulatory Agencies