



Legislative
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HB 19-1220

FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0934
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Sullivan
Sen. Fields

Date: July 15, 2019
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: COURT FACILITY DOG DURING WITNESS TESTIMONY

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure (<i>minimal</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government (<i>minimal</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill allows for the use of a court facility dog by a witness in certain circumstances. The bill increases state and local workload by a minimal amount.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary of Legislation

Upon a motion, this bill allows a witness to be accompanied by an accredited court facility dog in the courtroom when:

- testimony is taken during a criminal trial;
- the judge determines that the presence of the dog during witness testimony will reduce the witness anxiety or enhance the ability of the court to receive full and accurate testimony;
- arrangements for an available court dog would not interfere with efficient trial proceedings; and
- no prejudice would result to any party due to the presence of the dog with the witness.

A motion for a court facility dog must be filed no later than 14 days prior to the trial. A judge has the authority to terminate the use of the court facility dog at any time prior to or during witness testimony. Instructions may be provided by the court to the jury on the role of the court dog to ensure that the presence of the dog does not influence the jury.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill increases trial court workload in the Judicial Department by a minimal amount to process additional motions to allow for the use of a court facility dog. Workload will also increase to provide the jury with instructions on the use of the dog. This workload can be accomplished within existing resources and no appropriation is required.

Local Government

Similar to the state, beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill minimally increases City and County of Denver workload to process motions and provide jury instructions on the use of a court facility dog in Denver County Court.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 1, 2019, and took effect July 1, 2019.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	District Attorneys	Judicial
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