



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

HB 20-1229

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 20-0733	<b>Date:</b>	August 19, 2020
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Buentello Sen. Cooke; Bridges	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Signed into Law
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**Bill Topic:** POST SCHOLARSHIP RURAL AND SMALL LAW ENFORCEMENT

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

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

The bill allows the POST Board to provide scholarships for peace officer candidates in rural or small jurisdictions to attend basic law enforcement training. The bill modifies state workload and increases local revenue on an ongoing basis.

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

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

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## Summary of Legislation

The bill allows the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board to establish a scholarship program for law enforcement agencies in rural and small jurisdictions to assist with the tuition costs for peace officer candidates to attend basic law enforcement training academy. A person whose tuition costs were paid through the program must be employed by a small or rural law enforcement agency for at least three years after completing the training academy, or must reimburse the cost of the training to the POST Board.

## Background

The POST program in the Department of Law manages the certification and training of peace officers in Colorado. The POST Board Cash Fund is primarily funded through a \$1 fee on vehicle registrations and is used to provide training programs to peace officers, particularly those in rural and small jurisdictions, as well as to cover administrative costs. In FY 2018-19, the fund received \$5.2 million in revenue. Of this amount, about \$1.5 million was used to fund POST salaries, benefits, and operating costs, and about \$3.7 million was used for training grants.

**State Expenditures**

The bill modifies the workload of the Department of Law beginning in FY 2020-21. The department currently administers training grants to peace officers using approximately \$3.7 million from the POST Board Cash Fund. The bill provides the option of using those funds for scholarships to cover tuition costs of peace officer candidates. As a result, the workload may shift for existing POST Board staff to modify current programs, conduct rulemaking, and implement a scholarship program. Because the total amount of expenditures and staffing levels are not expected to change, no change in appropriations is required.

**Local Government**

The bill increases revenue for small or rural local law enforcement agencies that receive scholarships for peace officer candidates.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 29, 2020, and takes effect on September 14, 2020, assuming no referendum petition is filed

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Higher Education  
Public Safety

Law  
Sheriffs

Municipalities