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FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0380 Date: August 31, 2020
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Fenberg; Coram Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, TABOR Refund, State Expenditure, Local Government, State Transfer, Statutory Public Entity

The bill would have created a grant program and working group in the Department of Local Affairs concerning homeless populations and wildfire risk reduction. Beginning in FY 2020-21, the bill would have increased state and local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2020-21, the bill would have appropriated \$100,000 to the Department of Local Affairs.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in the analysis do not take effect.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 20-018

Table with 4 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditure (General Fund), Transfer, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Reducing Wildfire Risk Through Homeless Outreach Grant Program in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The program will award grants to conduct outreach among individuals experiencing homelessness for the purpose of reducing wildfire risks in the wildland-urban interface. DOLA is directed to convene a working group to identify best practices for conducting this outreach, and to issue grants consistent with the identified practices. The working group will include representatives from the Departments of Natural Resources and Public Safety, and stakeholders from state and local government and community organizations with relevant expertise. The work group must make its findings available to the public.

Grant program. DOLA is directed to adopt policies and procedures for the grant program. The bill identifies the local governments and other organizations eligible to receive grants, and some of the criteria DOLA must use to evaluate applications. DOLA must award grants by November 1 each year. Beginning September 1, 2021, DOLA must annually report program activity to the state legislature.

For FY 2020-21, the bill appropriates \$100,000 General Fund to the DOLA, of which five percent may be used for the working group and administration of the grant program.

State Expenditures

For FY 2020-21, the bill increases General Fund expenditures in DOLA by \$100,000, and increases workload for other state agencies. The fiscal note assumes that the program will be appropriated the same level of funding in future years through the annual budget process.

DOLA. Of the \$100,000 in total grant program expenditures, \$95,000 is for grants and \$5,000 will cover administrative expenses. Workload in DOLA includes convening the working group, developing and publishing policies and procedures for the grant program, and awarding grants.

Other state agencies. The bill requires representatives from the Departments of Natural Resources and Public Safety to participate in the work group. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

To the extent that local governments apply for and receive grant funding from DOLA, expenditures will increase for participating local governments to conduct outreach with people experiencing homelessness.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 13, 2020.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the bill would have appropriated \$100,000 to DOLA from the General Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

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