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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0049 Date: October 5, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Garcia Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: NURSE INTAKE OF 911 CALLS GRANT PROGRAM

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

The bill creates a pilot grant program to finance nurse intake of 911 calls with the goal of diverting non-urgent calls from emergency rooms to more appropriate lower-cost alternatives. It increases state expenditures from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$865,583 to the Department of Public Safety.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 21-156

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2021-22, Out Year FY 2022-23, and Out Year FY 2022-23. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a pilot grant program to finance nurse intake of 911 calls with the goal of diverting non-urgent calls from emergency rooms to more appropriate and lower-cost alternatives.

Grant program. By January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) must begin to implement the grant program. Grants will be awarded to public safety answering points that will operate a program for nurse intake of 911 calls or enter into contracts with nurses who are trained to provide this service. Four total grants will be awarded: one to a recipient operating in a county with a population exceeding 60,000, and three to recipients operating in counties with populations below that threshold. Prior to entering into a contract, a recipient must consult with their jurisdiction's medical director and fire chief, and seek input from community stakeholders.

Grant recipients must report on program results to the DPS, which must include the volume and disposition of calls taken by a nurse, patient satisfaction scores, and cost savings to the state's health care system. The department must evaluate the need for continued funding of the program, then report to the General Assembly and publish a report on its website by September 1, 2023.

Technical support. The following five entities are required to provide technical support to grant recipients implementing the pilot program: (1) the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the DPS; (2) the Public Utilities Commission, (3) the State Board of Nursing, (4) the Colorado 911 Resource Center, and (5) the state chapter of National Emergency Number Association.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures in the Department of Public Safety by \$874,646 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, and \$54,646 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2023-24, after which the program is repealed. These costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 21-156

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Department of Public Safety			
Personal Services	\$44,908	\$44,908	\$44,908
Operating Expenses	\$675	\$675	\$675
Grants	\$820,000	\$820,000	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$9,063	\$9,063	\$9,063
Total Cost	\$874,646	\$874,646	\$54,646
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE

¹

Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

The fiscal note assumes four grants of \$205,000 per year for two years each will accomplish the goals of the program. This cost is calculated based on each grant paying for labor equivalent to two years of staffing at the Nurse II level on the state pay scale inclusive of all personnel costs (\$174,000), \$16,000 for rideshare services used as alternatives to ambulances, and \$15,000 for contractor administrative costs. Actual grant amounts and structuring will be determined by the DPS. First- and second-year staffing is needed to develop guidance for grant applicants, evaluate applications, and administer the program. Third-year staffing is needed to close out the grants, evaluate the need for continued funding, and report to the General Assembly.

Other state agencies are required to provide technical support to recipients; this work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$9,063 from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 18, 2021.

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-22, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$865,583 to the Department of Public Safety.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Governor	Information Technology
Municipalities	Public Safety	Regulatory Agencies
Special Districts		