



Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

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|-------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Drafting Number: | LLS 22-1023 | Date: | August 17, 2022 |
| Prime Sponsors: | Rep. McCluskie; Catlin Sen. Donovan | Bill Status: | Signed into Law |
| | | Fiscal Analyst: | Annie Scott 303-866-5851 Annie.Scott@state.co.us |

Bill Topic: SUPPORT DARK SKY DESIGNATION & PROMOTION IN COLORADO

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

The bill creates the Colorado Dark Sky Designation Technical Assistance Grant Program in the Colorado Tourism Office. The bill creates a one-time state transfer and expenditure increase in FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required; funds are continuously appropriated to the Colorado Tourism Office.

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

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 22-1382**

| | | Budget Year FY 2022-23 | Out Year FY 2023-24 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Revenue | | - | - |
| Expenditures | Cash Funds | \$35,000 | - |
| | Total Expenditures | \$35,000 | - |
| Transfers | General Fund | (\$35,000) | - |
| | Cash Funds | \$35,000 | - |
| | Net Transfer | \$0 | - |
| Other Budget Impacts | | - | - |

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Colorado Dark Sky Designation Technical Assistance Grant Program (program) in the Colorado Tourism Office (office) to provide technical assistance grants to applicants applying to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) to have a community or place certified as a Designated Dark Sky Place. It transfers and continuously appropriates \$35,000 from the General Fund to the Colorado Travel and Tourism Additional Source Fund to implement the bill.

The office is required to establish policies for the grant application process, including the requirement that applicants demonstrate community and stakeholder support for the application; provide education and outreach about dark skies; and promote responsible and sustainable tourism opportunities in Designated Dark Sky Places. The office may contract with the national or Colorado Chapter of the IDA for assistance with program development, grant application review, recommendation of awards, education, and outreach.

By November 1, 2023, the office is required to submit a report to the legislature on expenditure of the funds and progress of the program, including the number of grant recipients that have opened and maintained a case file with the IDA or successfully received an IDA certification for a community or place.

Background

The IDA provides tools and resources to reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting. Designated Dark Sky Places are certified following an application process that requires applicants to demonstrate robust community support for dark-sky protection and document program requirements. Applications are reviewed by an IDA standing committee of dark-sky experts and previously successful program applicants. Upon certification, the IDA works with Designated Dark Sky Places on promotion through media relations, member communications, and social media. A Designated Dark Sky Place certification helps enhance the visibility of designated locations and fosters increased tourism and local economic activity.

State Transfers

On July 1, 2022, the bill transfers \$35,000 from the General Fund to the Colorado Travel and Tourism Additional Source Fund.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Colorado Tourism Office within the Governor's Office by \$35,000 in FY 2022-23 from the Colorado Travel and Tourism Additional Source Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 22-1382**

| | FY 2022-23 | FY 2023-24 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Colorado Tourism Office | | |
| Program Management and Communications | \$6,000 | - |
| Contractor – Technical Assistance | \$16,000 | - |
| Contractor – Education and Outreach | \$12,000 | - |
| Contractor – Administration | \$1,000 | - |
| Total Cost | \$35,000 | - |

Colorado Tourism Office. In FY 2022-23, the office will incur expenses to administer the grant program and contract with the Colorado Chapter of the IDA to promote the program and provide technical assistance grants. The fiscal note assumes that funds will be spent in FY 2022-23, but a portion of the funds may be spent in FY 2023-24.

- **Program management and communications.** In FY 2022-23 only, the office requires \$6,000 for program oversight, grant application review, and website development and maintenance.
- **Technical assistance.** In FY 2022-23 only, 40 hours of technical assistance and two on-site visits will be required by the contractor for each of the assumed four applicants, for a total of 160 hours and eight on-site visits. Costs are estimated at \$4,000 per applicant for a total of \$16,000.
- **Education and outreach.** In FY 2022-23 only, the contractor will engage in digital and physical content development and distribution, and the use of earned media, estimated to cost approximately \$12,000.
- **Administration.** In FY 2022-23 only, costs for the contractor’s administrative tasks including human resources, accounting, and reporting tasks are estimated at \$1,000.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 27, 2022.

State and Local Government Contacts

Governor Information Technology Treasury

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.