



## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# Fiscal Note

**Drafting Number:** LLS 22-0397  
**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Coleman

**Date:** February 8, 2022  
**Bill Status:** Senate Judiciary  
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**Bill Topic:** **WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFFENDERS IN DOC**

**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 type="checkbox"/> State Transfer               | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill makes updates to work programs and offender wages in the Department of Corrections. It increases state workload in FY 2022-23 only.

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

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill reframes the purpose of Department of Corrections (DOC) work programs and requires offenders to be paid at least the state minimum wage when working for private individuals, among other modifications, as discussed below.

**Work programs.** The bill changes the focus of DOC work programs to promoting an offender's successful rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration in to the community, and makes distinctions between internal and external programs within the department.

**Offender wages.** For external programs, the bill requires private individuals hiring offenders to pay at least the state minimum wage instead of the federal minimum wage. Any wage paid to an offender must be held in an account instead of in a trust. The bill removes provisions allowing the DOC to deduct up to 50 percent of an offenders wage to defray costs of confinement or for incidental expenses. Costs can still be deducted for victim compensation, voluntary payments to the victim's assistance and law enforcement fund, and any other payments to support an offender's dependents. Finally, the bill removes DOC's authority to pay the offender the money in their account over installments once they are put on parole or discharged from custody.

## **State Expenditures**

In FY 2022-23, workload will increase in the DOC to update policies, materials, and computer programming to align with the bill. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations and ongoing system upgrades.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Corrections

Information Technology

Law