



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

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| Drafting Number: | LLS 24-0363 | Date: | January 10, 2024 |
| Prime Sponsors: | Rep. McCormick; Martinez Sen. Ginal; Pelton B. | Bill Status: | House Agriculture |
| | | Fiscal Analyst: | Clayton Mayfield 303-866-5851 clayton.mayfield@coleg.gov |

Bill Topic: **PROVIDING VETERINARY SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH**

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

The bill establishes a framework for the delivery of veterinary services through telemedicine and requires the Department of Regulatory Agencies to promulgate rules. The bill minimally increases state workload for FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes a framework for the delivery of veterinary services through telemedicine. The Board of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) is authorized to promulgate rules regarding the use of telemedicine to provide veterinary services. Additionally, the bill requires a person to be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Colorado in order to practice veterinary telemedicine.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. The following section outlines crimes that are comparable to the offense in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Prior conviction data and assumptions. This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine, a class 2 misdemeanor, by adding unauthorized use of telemedicine. From FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23, two offenders have been sentenced and convicted for unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine. Based on the low number of yearly convictions for this existing crime, the fiscal note assumes that there will be minimal or no additional criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill. Because the bill is not expected to have a tangible impact on criminal justice-related revenue or expenditures at the state or local levels, these potential impacts are not discussed further in this fiscal note. Visit leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload in DORA for FY 2024-25 to promulgate any necessary rules concerning veterinary telemedicine, and to conduct outreach and education. This increase is absorbable within existing resources, and no change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies