



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0812	Date:	February 26, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Danielson	Bill Status:	Senate Business, Labor, & Tech.
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Bill Topic: **NEWS ACCESS FOR CONSUMERS WHO ARE PRINT-DISABLED**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill provides funding to the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado to expand its literary support services. Starting in FY 2024-25, the bill increases state expenditures and may increase state revenue.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$137,800 to the Department of Human Services.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-153

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue	Cash Funds	\$137,800	\$137,800
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$137,800	\$137,800
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget	TABOR Refund	\$137,800	\$137,800

Summary of Legislation

The bill authorizes National Federation of the Blind of Colorado to expand its literary support services for the blind through the NFB-NEWSLINE and Project Literacy. The bill specifies how the federation may spend its funding and requires the General Assembly to annually appropriate funds for the program through the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Cash Fund.

Background

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado is a nonprofit origination that provides advocacy and support to the blind and visually impaired across the state. As part of its programing, the federation offers a free electronic service, called the NFB-NEWSLINE, for blind and visually impaired individuals to access newspapers, magazines, and TV listings using a touch-tone telephone. More information about the federation and NFB-NEWSLINE can be found here: <https://nfbco.org/>.

State Revenue

The bill increases revenue from fees by up to \$137,800 per year starting in FY 2024-25. This revenue, which is deposited to the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Cash Fund, is discussed below.

Fee impact on telephone lines. Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. These fee amounts are estimates only, actual fees will be set administratively by DORA based on cash fund balance, program costs, and the number of telephone lines subject to the fee. Due to the increased expenditures from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Cash Fund, the corresponding increase in revenue to cover the cost is estimated. The table below identifies the annual fee impact of this bill. Any additional revenue is subject to the state's TABOR limit.

Table 2
Annual Fee Impact on Telephone Lines

Type of Fee	Proposed Monthly Fee	Months	Number Affected	Total Fee Impact
Telephone Users with Disability Surcharge	\$0.002	12	6.0 million	\$137,800

State Expenditures

The bill increases cash fund expenditures by an estimated \$137,800 per year in the Colorado Department of Human Services, starting in FY 2024-25. This assumes the General Assembly will appropriate \$130,000 from the Telephone Users with Disabilities Cash Fund to be provided to the federation and that the CDHS will require 6 percent in administrative costs to enter into a contract with the federation, release funds, and to ensure that the funds are spent in line with

the requirements of the bill. The General Assembly has the discretion to set the amount appropriated for the federation.

Other Impacts

TABOR refunds. The bill is expected to increase the amount of state revenue required to be refunded to taxpayers by the amounts shown in the State Revenue section above. This estimate assumes the December 2023 LCS revenue forecast. A forecast of state revenue subject to TABOR is not available beyond FY 2025-26. Because TABOR refunds are paid from the General Fund, increased cash fund revenue will reduce the amount of General Fund available to spend or save.

Technical Note

The bill does not outline any requirements for the Colorado Department of Human Services to enter into a contract with the federation. However, as the General Assembly can only appropriate money to state agencies, it is assumed that funds should be appropriated to the CDHS and that CDHS will enter into a contract with the federation to release the funds.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$137,800 from the Colorado Telephone Users with Disabilities Cash Fund to the Department of Human Services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services

Regulatory Agencies

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 the [General Assembly website](#).