



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-186**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0869 **Date:** February 24, 2017  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Tate **Bill Status:** Senate Business  
 Rep. Carver; Lawrence **Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

**BILL TOPIC:** REDUCE REGULATORY BURDEN RULES ON BUSINESSES

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$606,210</u></b>	<b><u>\$617,047</u></b>
Cash Funds	606,210	617,047
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$671,088</u></b>	<b><u>\$682,745</u></b>
General Fund	50,417	50,283
Cash Funds	480,661	483,268
Centrally Appropriated Costs	140,010	149,194
<b>TABOR Impact</b>	\$606,210	\$617,047
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	6.0 FTE	6.5 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$531,078 - Multiple departments (FY 2017-18).		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing revenue and expenditure increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill makes changes to state law related to the adoption of rules by state agencies that impact small businesses.

**Regulatory flexibility analyses.** The bill requires that prior to the adoption of any rule, a state agency must prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis aimed at minimizing the impact of the rule on small businesses. For the purposes of the regulatory flexibility analyses, the bill defines a small business as one that is independently owned and employs 100 employees or fewer. The flexibility analysis must:

- consider less stringent compliance or reporting requirements, schedules, and deadlines; performance standards for small businesses; exemptions of small businesses from all or any of the proposed requirements; and whether less burdensome rules may be applied to small businesses;
- determine the necessity of proposed rules, including a finding that rules are necessary based on state or federal law, a court ruling, public health and safety, or requests by the regulated community;
- determine the fiscal impact of the proposed rules on small businesses; and
- identify least costly alternatives to the proposed rules.

If the proposed rule is adopted, the agency must adopt the least costly alternative and any exemptions or less burdensome rules identified in the flexibility analysis, unless the agency provides written justification. The regulatory flexibility analysis must be made available five days prior to a public hearing, and must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) at the same time as the notice of proposed rulemaking and the proposed rules.

If a small business is adversely affected by an action of an agency, or not satisfied with the flexibility analysis, the business may file a request with the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) for the agency to prepare a cost-benefit analysis. The executive director of DORA must decide whether to require a cost-benefit analysis and may adjust the rulemaking schedule accordingly.

**Outreach.** Under current law, agencies must convene a representative stakeholder group to participate in public rulemaking hearings and submit views on the proposals. The bill requires state agencies proposing rules that likely impact small businesses to actively solicit representatives of small businesses to participate in the stakeholder groups, as well as to expand outreach and notification to small businesses that may not be represented by a trade association or lobbyist. The bill requires that DORA maintain a website that includes the regulatory flexibility analyses.

**Definitions.** Under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), a small business is defined as a business with fewer than 500 employees. The bill modifies the definition in the APA to mean a business entity that is independently owned and operated, employs fewer than 500 employees, and has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million. This definition does not apply to the required regulatory flexibility analyses.

## Background

**Rulemaking.** Under current law, administrative rules are promulgated in accordance with the APA. When an agency wants to promulgate a new rule or amend an existing rule, it must first file a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" with the SOS, which publishes a public notice in the Colorado Register. Once the notice is filed with the SOS, the public is allowed to offer comments on the proposed rule, and may request a cost-benefit analysis. Agencies must accept and consider comments from the public before the agency can adopt, amend, or otherwise change any regulation not explicitly exempted from the APA. Following a hearing on a proposed rule, the agency has 180 days to file adopted rules with the SOS. Table 1 shows the number of rules promulgated in 2015 and 2016 by department.

<b>Department</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Agriculture	6	18
Corrections	0	0
Education	21	18
Health Care Policy and Financing	21	18
Higher Education	1	1
Human Services	27	46
Labor and Employment	10	13
Law	1	1
Local Affairs	64	59

<b>Table 1. Rules Promulgated by Department in 2015 and 2016 * (Cont.)</b>		
<b>Department</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Military Affairs	0	0
Natural Resources	37	41
Personnel and Administration	9	1
Public Health & Environment	57	65
Public Safety	12	8
Regulatory Agencies	123	71
Revenue	71	79
State	6	3
Transportation	6	1
Treasury	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>443</b>

\* Rule review years go from November 1 to November 1.

### **State Revenue**

***The bill increases state cash fund revenue to DORA, SOS, and the Department of Revenue (DOR), and the Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) by \$606,210 in FY 2017-18, and \$617,047 in FY 2018-19.*** The bill will increase revenue to various cash funds in these departments to cover the increased direct and indirect cash-funded costs as a result of the bill.

### **TABOR Impact**

This bill increases state cash fund revenue from fees, which will increase the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19. TABOR refunds are paid out of the General Fund. Since the bill increases the TABOR refund obligation without a corresponding change in General Fund revenue, the amount of money available in the General Fund for the budget will decrease by an identical amount.

### **State Expenditures**

***The bill increases state expenditures by \$671,088 in FY 2017-18 and \$682,745 in FY 2018-19 for several state agencies.*** Costs are listed by department in Table 2 for FY 2017-18 and Table 3 for FY 2018-19 and discussed below.

<b>Table 2. Expenditures Under SB17-186 in FY 2017-18</b>						
<b>Department</b>	<b>Personal Services</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Capital &amp; Operating</b>	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>Centrally Appropriated*</b>	<b>Total</b>
Public Health and Environment	\$96,821	1.2	\$5,843	-	\$44,601	147,265
Public Safety	3,776	0.1	-	-	1,646	5,422
Personnel and Administration	5,586	0.1	-	-	1,328	6,914
Regulatory Agencies	75,063	0.8	5,463	6,400	13,240	100,166
Revenue	301,464	3.8	22,422		79,196	403,082
Secretary of State	-	-	-	8,240	-	8,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$482,710</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>\$33,728</b>	<b>\$14,640</b>	<b>\$140,010</b>	<b>\$671,088</b>

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

<b>Table 3. Expenditures Under SB17-186 in FY 2018-19</b>						
<b>Department</b>	<b>Personal Services</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Capital &amp; Operating</b>	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>Centrally Appropriated*</b>	<b>Total</b>
Public Health and Environment	105,624	1.3	1,235	-	47,272	154,131
Public Safety	4,532	0.1	-	-	1,802	6,334
Personnel and Administration	6,703	0.1	-	-	1,429	8,132
Regulatory Agencies	81,887	0.9	805	-	14,662	97,354
Revenue	328,870	4.1	3,895	-	84,029	416,794
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$527,616</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>\$5,935</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$149,194</b>	<b>\$682,745</b>

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

**Assumptions.** The bill requires that a regulatory flexibility analysis be performed for all proposed rules. The fiscal note assumes that the analyses of rules that do not impact small businesses can be accomplished within existing appropriations. For rules that do impact small businesses, the fiscal note assumes up to 50 hours per rule is required, depending on the department. FY 2017-18 costs have been prorated to assume an August 1 start date and the General Fund payday shift.

In addition, the fiscal note assumes that additional expenditures required to conduct a cost-benefit analysis requested by a small business will be initially accomplished within existing appropriations. Cost-benefit analyses can be requested under current law, so any change is expected to be minimal. Should an agency require additional resources, the affected agencies will request them through the annual budget process.

**Public Health and Environment.** CDPHE requires 1.2 FTE in FY 2017-18 and 1.3 FTE in FY 2018-19, paid from the General Fund and cash funds, to conduct substantial regulatory flexibility analyses of 57 rules per year.

**Public Safety.** The Department of Public Safety requires 0.1 FTE, paid from the General Fund, to conduct substantial regulatory flexibility analyses of six rules per year beginning in FY 2017-18.

**Personnel and Administration.** The Department of Personnel and Administration requires 0.1 FTE, paid from the General Fund, to conduct regulatory flexibility analyses of six rules per year beginning in FY 2017-18.

**Regulatory Agencies.** DORA requires 0.8 FTE in FY 2017-18 and 0.9 FTE in FY 2018-19 to conduct substantial regulatory flexibility analyses of 94 rules per year and accept requests by aggrieved small businesses for cost-benefit analyses. In addition, DORA requires \$6,400 to establish a one-stop website for all regulatory flexibility analyses in FY 2017-18. Expenditures are from various cash funds within the divisions of real estate, insurance, professions and occupations, and securities in DORA.

**Revenue.** The DOR requires 3.8 FTE in FY 2017-18 and 4.1 FTE in FY 2018-19 to conduct substantial regulatory flexibility analyses on 349 rules. Rules made by the Enforcement Business Group (EBG) and Tax Division are the most heavily impacted and require an average of 28 hours and 13 hours per rule, respectively. Of the expenditures, \$291,044 are from the EBG Administration Cash Fund, and \$32,842 are from the General Fund.

**Secretary of State.** The bill increases expenditures in the SOS by \$8,240 in FY 2017-18 to modify the administrative rules online filing system to allow an agency to attach the regulatory flexibility analysis and to publish the analysis in the Colorado Register. The expenditure is funded by the SOS Cash Fund. The fiscal note assumes 80 hours of computer programming at a rate of \$103 per hour. Additional workload to conduct outreach to small businesses and complete the regulatory flexibility analysis for SOS rules can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Department of Law.** The bill may increase the legal services required by state agencies to conduct rulemaking. The workload is expected to be initially accomplished within existing appropriations. Should individual agencies require additional legal services, they will request them through the annual budget process.

**All state agencies — outreach.** The bill increases the workload for state agencies to conduct additional outreach to small businesses. The fiscal note assumes that targeting small businesses that are not otherwise represented by trade organizations or lobbyists will be incorporated into each agency's existing outreach and stakeholder process. The workload is expected to be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Minimally impacted state agencies.** With the exception of the departments discussed above, the bill increases the workload for all other state agencies to complete regulatory flexibility analyses during the rulemaking process. The increase is expected to be accomplished within existing appropriations; however, should any agency require additional resources, they will request them through the annual budget process.

**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. Leased space is included to show the incremental impact of the additional FTE to the DOR, and calculated at a rate of 200 square feet per FTE at a rate of \$27 per square foot. Centrally appropriated costs also include indirect costs for CDPHE and the Department of Public Safety. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 4.

<b>Table 4. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under SB17-186</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$48,007	\$52,011
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	43,253	47,277
Indirect Costs (CDPHE, DPS)	26,610	27,766
Leased Space (DOR)	22,140	22,140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,010</b>	<b>\$149,194</b>

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. The bill applies to all rulemaking initiated on or after that date.

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2017-18, the bill requires the following appropriations:

- \$102,664 and an allocation of 1.2 FTE to the Department of Public Health and Environment, of which \$8,213 is from the General Fund and \$194,451 is from various cash funds;
- \$3,776 from General Fund and an allocation of 0.1 FTE to the Department of Public Safety;
- \$5,586 from General Fund and an allocation of 0.1 FTE to the Department of Personnel and Administration;
- \$323,886 and an allocation of 3.8 FTE to the Department of Revenue, of which \$291,044 is from Enforcement Business Group Administration Cash Fund, and \$32,842 is from the General Fund;
- \$86,926 from various cash funds and an allocation of 0.8 FTE to the Department of Regulatory Agencies; and
- \$8,240 from Secretary of State Cash Fund to the Secretary of State's Office.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

All State Agencies