



Legislative  
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*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# FINAL FISCAL NOTE

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 18-0365	<b>Date:</b>	June 22, 2018
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Danielson Sen. Todd	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Signed into Law
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**Bill Topic:** COMMISSION DEAF HARD OF HEARING DEAFBLIND

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue ( <i>potential</i> )	<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 redefines the powers of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis and may potentially increase state revenue.

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

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1108**

		FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	Cash Funds	-	\$61,700
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>TABOR</b>		-	-

## Summary of Legislation

This bill clarifies and expands the services offered by the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to include persons who are deafblind. Starting in July 2019, the Colorado Deafblind Citizens Council is created to advise the commission, state and local governments, and other relevant entities on deafblind issues. The bill also gives the commission the authority to:

- establish a pilot project to provide auxiliary services to all state agencies in the Executive Branch; and
- establish and maintain a community access program.

Finally, the bill changes the name of the commission to include deafblind and changes the membership on the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Grant Program Committee to include additional representatives from the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community.

## Background

The Colorado Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is responsible for ensuring equal access to government services for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind in Colorado. In FY 2017-18, the commission was appropriated \$1,367,977 including \$1,229,402 from the Telephone Users with Disability Fund reappropriated from the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and \$138,575 General Fund. The commission has 8.3 FTE. Under current federal law, state departments and agencies are required to provide auxiliary services and other resources to enable access for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

## State Revenue and TABOR Impact

To the extent that the expenditures highlighted in this fiscal note contribute to raising the telephone line surcharge, revenue to the Telephone Users with Disability Fund in DORA may increase starting in FY 2019-20. Any increase in fee revenue would increase the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR for FY 2019-20. Since the bill potentially 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

Starting in FY 2019-20, expenditures in the DHS will increase by \$61,700, as discussed below.

**Deafblind Citizens Council.** The DHS requires \$11,700 per year to provide interpreters and support service providers to the Colorado Deafblind Citizens Council (Council) created in the bill. This cost is paid using reappropriated funds from the Telephone Users with Disability Fund. The fiscal note assumes that the Council will meet six times per year and that each meeting will last three hours. It is assumed that eight interpreters and six support service providers will be needed to assist the committee members and attendees. It is estimated that support service providers will assist with preparation and wrap-ups for one hour before and after each meeting. On average, an interpreter costs \$50 per hour and a support service provider costs \$25 per hour.

**Pilot Program.** The bill also requires the commission to hire an independent contractor to evaluate the pilot program and make recommendations on how to expand the program to other state departments and agencies. The evaluation must be included in the commission's annual report issued on September 1, 2020. To conduct the evaluation, expenditures in the DHS will increase by \$50,000 for FY 2019-20. This cost will be covered by using funds from the Telephone Users with Disability Fund. The DHS will also have an increase in a workload to assist the commission in providing auxiliary services to additional state agencies. The DHS plans to set up a pilot program through the commission to provide auxiliary services to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Employment and the Exceptional Student Services Unit in the Department of Education, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations. However, if the pilot program is successful and expands in future years, costs will increase for the DHS and it is assumed that additional funding will be requested through the annual budget process.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 29, 2018, and takes effect August 8, 2018, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

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