



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**HB 18-1223**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 18-0892  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Reyher

**Date:** April 12, 2018  
**Bill Status:** House Health, Insurance, and Environment  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick | 303-866-4777  
Bill.Zepernick@state.co.us

**Bill Topic:** DECLARE AUTISM EPIDEMIC IN COLORADO

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>minimal, potential</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to examine whether there is an autism epidemic, and if so, to take appropriate measures to protect public health. Initially, this will increase state agency workload by a minimal amount, with the potential for future costs if an epidemic is declared.

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

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

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to examine whether there is an autism epidemic by convening the Governor's Emergency Epidemic Response Committee by August 30, 2018. The committee is required to review data across age groups since 1990 and determine if there is currently an autism epidemic in Colorado. If an epidemic is declared, the CDPHE must take appropriate measures via public health programs to protect public health. If the committee determines that there is no epidemic, it must document this finding in a report to the Governor, the executive director of the CDPHE, and the health committees of the General Assembly.

**State Expenditures**

Starting in FY 2017-18, the CDPHE will have an increase in workload to gather and examine available autism data and to provide this data to the Governor's Emergency Epidemic Response Committee. The members of the committee, which include representatives from the CDPHE, other state agencies, and various health professionals, will then be required to review the data and determine if there is an autism epidemic. It is assumed that this work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

If an autism epidemic is declared, the CDPHE will have additional workload and costs to develop and implement a plan to respond to the epidemic. At this time, the potential costs have not been estimated and will depend on the committee's finding and the nature of response measures. It is assumed that additional funding to fund the autism epidemic response, if declared, will be requested through the annual budget process.

## Effective Date

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

## State and Local Government Contacts

Counties  
Human Services

Governor  
Information Technology

Health Care Policy and Financing  
Public Health and Environment