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REVISED FISCAL NOTE

(replaces fiscal note dated January 17, 2020)

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0394 Date: March 3, 2020
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet; Van Winkle; Sen. Fields; Lundeen Bill Status: House Appropriations Fiscal Analyst: Aaron Carpenter | 303-866-4918 Aaron.Carpenter@state.co.us

Bill Topic: ENHANCE SAFE2TELL

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires the Department of Law to devise a process to appropriately route Safe2Tell tips relating to mental health and substance abuse and to conduct an advertising campaign for Safe2Tell. It also allows the Attorney General to release Safe2Tell information to a law enforcement agency to prevent imminent physical harm or serious bodily injury. The bill will increase state expenditures on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Law.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Education Committee. This bill was recommended by the School Safety Committee.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1005

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditure (General Fund), Transfer, and TABOR Refund.

## Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Department of Law to:

- work with stakeholders when developing training materials for appropriate Safe2Tell responses;
- conduct an annual advertising campaign for Safe2Tell;
- provide Safe2Tell informational material to additional types of youth-related organizations for free, subject to available appropriations; and
- devise a process and standard protocols for mental health and substance abuse tips to Safe2Tell to be transferred to the Colorado Crisis Hotline.

In addition, the Department of Law no longer has to report a tip to law enforcement or school officials if the tip was forwarded to the statewide crisis hotline. It is also not required to provide informational material and training to preschools. Finally, the bill allows the Attorney General to disclose any materials or information to a law enforcement agency if the Attorney General deems the disclosure necessary for the prevention of imminent physical harm or bodily injury.

## Background

Safe2Tell allows students, parents, school staff and community members to report concerns regarding their own safety or the safety of others. Reports may be submitted by phone call, website submissions, or mobile application; currently Safe2Tell does not use text messaging. According to the Department of Law, during the 2018-19 school year, Safe2Tell received approximately 20,000 reports. When Safe2Tell receives a tip, the program may transfer callers who are self-reporting behavioral or mental health concerns to the statewide crisis hotline. Of the reports Safe2Tell received, 33 were self-reported individuals in need of crisis intervention or counseling; these calls were forwarded to Colorado Crisis Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS).

## State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2020-21, the bill increases General Fund expenditures in the Department of Law by \$50,000 per year, while also increasing workload in the Department of Human Services, as described below.

**Department of Law.** Starting in FY 2020-21, expenditures in the Department of Law will increase by \$50,000 to contract with an advertising firm to conduct an advertising campaign, as required by the bill. Workload will also increase in the department to devise a process for routing non-crisis calls, to align processes and procedures for reports received for all communication methods, and to determine when information should be released to law enforcement agencies. The fiscal note assumes that this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Finally, while expenditures will decrease by no longer providing materials and training on Safe2Tell to preschools, these savings will be offset by providing materials to other youth-related organizations. The fiscal note assumes this shift in material distribution can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Department of Human Services.** To the extent that more tips are routed to the Colorado Crisis Hotline, expenditures and workload at the hotline will increase. Because it is not known how many more tips may be transferred to the Colorado Crisis Hotline, the fiscal note assumes that any adjustments in appropriations to the DHS for the hotline will be handled through the annual budget process.

### **Effective Date**

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

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Law.

### **Departmental Difference**

In FY 2020-21, the Department of Human Services estimates that General Fund expenditures will increase by \$22,546 in FY 2020-21 and by \$53,680 in FY 2021-22, to handle additional transfers to the statewide crisis hotline. The DHS estimate assumes that 123,877 calls will be forwarded to the crisis hotline and that each call will take 13 minutes each, resulting in an increase of 2,065 hours of staff time. The DHS estimates this will require an additional contracted FTE at a cost of \$53,680 per year. Costs in FY 2020-21 are prorated for a February 2021 start date. The fiscal note assumes that because calls into Safe2Tell can already be routed to the Colorado Crisis Hotline, and since the volume of calls will be affected by the process and standard procedures developed under the bill, the DHS can request additional funds through the annual budget process based on the actual increase in workload.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Human Services                      Information Technology                      Law