



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1328

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 20-1023	Date:	August 17, 2020
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Valdez A.; Esgar Sen. Rodriguez; Bridges	Bill Status:	Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: **OUTDOOR EMERGENCY MARIJUANA CONTINGENCY PLANS**

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

This bill would have required the Marijuana Enforcement Division in the Department of Revenue to promulgate rules on the process and procedure for filing and approving contingency plans for outdoor marijuana cultivation operations. This would have increased state revenue and expenditures and local government workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$194,653 to the Department of Revenue.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1328**

		FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue	Cash Funds	\$241,880	\$217,190
	Total	\$241,880	\$217,190
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$194,653	\$169,963
	Centrally Appropriated	\$47,227	\$47,227
	Total	\$241,880	\$217,190
	Total FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) in the Department of Revenue (DOR) to promulgate rules on the process and procedure for filing and approving contingency plans for outdoor marijuana cultivation operations by January 1, 2021. Until that time, outdoor cultivators may take reasonable and necessary actions to prevent or ameliorate crop loss due to an adverse weather event without the action being a violation of any state or local law, rules, or regulations. After January 1, 2021, outdoor operations may file contingency plans with the MED for approval. Once approved, outdoor operations may follow their contingency plans in the case of an adverse weather event or other catastrophe. The bill applies to both medical and retail marijuana outdoor cultivation operations.

Background and Assumptions

As of February 1, 2020, Colorado has 1,142 licensed medical and retail marijuana cultivation facilities. The MED does not track the number of cultivation facilities that are outdoors. The fiscal note is based on the assumption that 10 percent (114) of licensed cultivation facilities are outdoors and that 30 percent (34) will submit contingency plans to the MED in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. Adverse weather events in Colorado can include high winds, tornadoes, hail, flash flooding, earthquakes, drought, blizzards, and thunderstorms. Examples of violations of law, rule, and regulation that may occur as a result of an action taken to prevent or ameliorate crop loss from an adverse weather event or other catastrophe include, but are not limited to, the following:

- relocating marijuana plants to an unlicensed facility or to a jurisdiction that does not permit commercial marijuana operations;
- inventory tracking violations;
- possession and transportation of marijuana by persons not licensed to engage in such activities; and
- storage of plants at a facility without required security and surveillance.

State Revenue

This bill will increase revenue from fees by \$241,880 in FY 2020-21 and \$217,190 in FY 2021-22 to the Marijuana Cash Fund to cover the direct and indirect costs of the bill. The next fee setting rulemaking occurs during the summer of 2020, at which time it will be determined how the costs will be recovered from fees. The revenue increase will be subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

This bill will increase expenditures in the DOR by \$241,880 and 2.0 FTE in FY 2020-21 and \$217,190 and 2.0 FTE in FY 2021-22 from the Marijuana Cash Fund. These costs are shown in Table 2 and explained below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 20-1328**

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of Revenue		
Personal Services	\$165,289	\$165,289
Operating Expenses	\$2,700	\$2,700
Capital Outlay Costs	\$12,400	-
Law Enforcement Equipment	\$14,264	\$1,974
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$47,227	\$47,227
Total Cost	\$241,880	\$217,190
Total FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

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

Marijuana Enforcement Division. The MED will add 2.0 FTE at the Criminal Investigator II classification to investigate whether actions taken in response to adverse weather events prior to the contingency plan rule taking effect were reasonable and necessary to prevent crop loss. The investigators will review contingency plans and work with cultivation facilities to provide compliance assistance. The investigators will coordinate with other state or local law enforcement in contingency plan development and when an adverse weather event or other catastrophe subject to the contingency plan occurs. If an investigator finds that actions were not reasonable and necessary or not in compliance with an approved contingency plan, the investigator will prepare materials for administrative actions against the licensee. The fiscal note includes law enforcement equipment costs including personal protective equipment, badge, radio, phone, firearm and ammunition.

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. These costs, which include leased space, employee insurance, and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$47,227 in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.

Local Government

Prior to January 1, 2021, if an outdoor marijuana cultivation facility takes action in response to an adverse weather event, the appropriate local jurisdictions may evaluate whether the action was reasonable and necessary to prevent or ameliorate crop loss. Local jurisdictions may also participate in the development and implementation of contingency plans.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Finance Committee on June 4, 2020.

State Appropriations

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$194,643 from the Marijuana Cash Fund to the Department of Revenue and 2.0 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Information Technology	Law
Municipalities	Revenue	