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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0929 Date: April 25, 2022
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Jaquez Lewis; Rankin Bill Status: Senate HHS
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Bill Topic: PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

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

The bill requires appropriations of ARPA funds to multiple programs supporting the education, training, recruitment and retention of health-care workers. State expenditures continue through FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2022-23, the bill requires appropriations totaling \$61.0 million to multiple state agencies.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The fiscal note is preliminary and may be revised when additional information becomes available.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 22-226

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2022-23, and Out Year FY 2023-24. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds, Total Expenditures), Transfers (Cash Funds, Net Transfer), and Other Budget Impacts.

1The transfer is made via an appropriation between cash funds.

## **Summary of Legislation**

For FY 2022-23, the bill requires appropriations totaling \$61 million for programs supporting the education, training, recruitment and retention of health-care workers. All appropriations are from the Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund, which contains federal ARPA funds. Any money from these appropriations that remain after FY 2022-23 may be spent in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 without further appropriations.

**Health Care Workforce Resilience and Retention Program.** The Health Care Workforce Resilience and Retention Program is created in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to use existing initiatives to support the health care workforce and meet the health care needs of Coloradans. The program may provide technical assistance and grants to community partners to develop programs, services, and best practices, and for planning, research, and evaluation related to resilience and retention of health care workers. The bill creates the Health Care Workforce Resilience and Retention Cash Fund and requires an appropriation of \$2.0 million to the fund. The fund is continuously appropriated to the CDPHE.

**Practice-Based Health Education Grant Program.** The Practice-Based Health Education Grant Program is created in the Primary Care Office in the CDPHE to increase clinical, practice-based training opportunities for students enrolled in a health care profession degree or license program. The bill requires an appropriation of \$20.0 million to the CDPHE to implement the grant program.

**School Nurse Grant Program.** The bill removes current limits on the amount of grants and the length of grant awards made from this existing School Nurse Grant Program, and requires an appropriation of \$3.0 million to the CDPHE for the program.

**Reengagement initiative.** The bill requires an appropriation of \$10.0 million to the CDPHE for recruitment and re-engagement of health care workers with current or expired licenses and staffing.

**In-Demand Short-Term Health Care Credentials Program.** The bill requires that the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education in the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) administer a program to support the expansion and availability of in-demand health care professionals. The state board must allocate money to community colleges, area technical colleges, district colleges and community nonprofits that deliver programming and student financial supports in partnership with accredited universities. For FY 2022-23, the bill requires an appropriation of \$26.0 million dollars to the CCCS, of which \$25,000 may be used to market the program. The program is repealed September 1, 2027.

**Other requirements.** The bill requires that CDPHE work with the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Government Data Advisory Board to determine data-sharing agreements that integrate state data in order to analyze demand, allocate resources, and evaluate the performance of state-administered and financed health care workforce initiatives. The bill also expands the scope of recommendations required to be made by the Nurse-Physician Advisory Task Force for Colorado Healthcare (NPATCH).

## State Transfers

The bill transfers \$2.0 million from the Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund to the Health-Care Workforce Resilience and Retention Cash Fund. The transfer occurs through an appropriation between cash funds.

## State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by \$35.0 million in the CDPHE and by \$26.0 million in the CCCS in FY 2022-23. Funding shown in FY 2022-23 may be spent over three fiscal years, and originates from the Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund. Expenditures are displayed in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures Under SB 22-226**

	<b>FY 2022-23</b>
<b>Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</b>	
Health Care Workforce Resilience and Retention Program	\$2,000,000
Practice-Based Health Education Grant Program	\$20,000,000
School Nurse Grant Program	\$3,000,000
Epidemic and communicable diseases	\$10,000,000
<b>Colorado Community College System</b>	
In-Demand Short Term Health Care Credentials Program	\$26,000,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$61,000,000</b>

The bill also increases workload for other state agencies, including the Department of Regulatory Agencies and Office of Information Technology by a minimal amount. No change in appropriations is required.

## Effective Date

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

## State Appropriations

For FY 2022-23, the bill requires the following appropriations from the Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund:

- \$2.0 million to the Health Care Workforce Resilience and Retention Cash Fund, which is continuously appropriated to CDPHE;
- \$33.0 million to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; and
- \$26.0 million to the Colorado Community College System.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Governor  
Public Health

Higher Education  
Regulatory Agencies

Information Technology