



Legislative Council Staff  
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

# Fiscal Note

**Drafting Number:** LLS 23-0312      **Date:** March 2, 2023  
**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Coleman; Baisley      **Bill Status:** Senate Judiciary  
Rep. Martinez; Sharbini      **Fiscal Analyst:** Aaron Carpenter | 303-866-4918  
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**Bill Topic:**      **SUNSET OFFENDER REENTRY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<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

**Sunset Bill.** This bill continues the Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills Program in the Department of Corrections, which is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2023. State fiscal impacts include both increases in workload from changes to the program under the bill, as well as the continuation of the program's current expenditures. The program is continued through September 1, 2032.

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

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

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 23-157<sup>1</sup>**

	Budget Year FY 2023-24	Out Year FY 2024-25
<b>New Impacts</b>		
Revenue	-	-
Expenditures	-	-
<b>Other Budget Impacts</b>	-	-
<b>Continuing Impacts</b>		
Revenue	-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$7,036,014
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$1,055,402

<sup>1</sup> Table 1 shows the new impacts resulting from changes to the program under the bill and the continuing impacts from extending the program beyond its current repeal date. The continuing program impacts will end if the bill is not passed and the program is allowed to repeal.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill continues the Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills (WAGEES) program for nine years until September 1, 2032. It is currently scheduled to repeal in September 1, 2023. The bill also requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to track long-term recidivism rates for persons who were formerly incarcerated who participated in reentry services and programs and to inform incarcerated persons of reentry services and programs prior to release from the DOC.

## Background

The WAGEES program was created in 2014 by House Bill 14-1355 to provide funds to community partners that provide re-entry services with the goal of reducing recidivism, enhancing public safety, and increasing a parolee's chance of achieving success in the community. The Latino Coalition for Community Leadership serves as the intermediary between the DOC and the community and oversees the community partners and ensures proper records maintenance, use of grant funding, and provides technical, administrative, and financial guidance. The full sunset report can be found [here](#).

## Continuing Program Impacts

Based on the department's FY 2022-23 budget request, the DOC is expected to have expenditures of \$7.0 million to administer the WAGEES Program. If this bill is enacted, current expenditures will continue for the program starting in FY 2023-24. If this bill is not enacted, the program will end on September 1, 2024, following a wind-down period, and state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2024-25 by the amounts shown in Table 1. The changes to the program that drive additional workload are discussed in the State Expenditures sections below.

## State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2023-24, workload to the DOC will increase to establish policies that require community correctional facilities and DOC case workers to inform incarcerated persons of reentry services and to track long-term recidivism rates. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections

Information Technology

Law

Public Safety

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The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: [leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes](http://leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes).