# Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

# FINAL FISCAL NOTE

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BILL TOPIC: PATIENT CAREGIVER DESIGNATION HOSPITAL REQUIREMENT

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal increase.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

<sup>\*</sup> This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

### **Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires that general hospitals in Colorado give each patient or the patient's legal guardian the option to designate at least one caregiver within 24 hours of the patient's admission to the hospital and prior to the patient's release from the hospital or transfer to another facility. In the event that a patient is unconscious or incapacitated, a caregiver may be designated as soon as practicable. Specifically, hospitals must:

- record designation of a caregiver, relationship to patient, and contact information in the patient's medical record;
- provide a discharge plan to the patient describing the patient's aftercare needs; and
- provide the caregiver with instructions and training concerning the aftercare of the patient.

#### **State Expenditures**

The bill will increase workload in the Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) by a minimal amount. The Health Facilities Division within the DPHE licenses hospitals in the state and may need to communicate the changes with hospital systems. As part of its licensing responsibilities, the DPHE may also be required to address complaints about hospitals that fail to follow the process outlined in the bill. Overall, any potential workload increase is anticipated to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

#### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 8, 2015.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Public Health and Environment Counties Corrections Higher Education Human Services Health Care Policy and Financing