Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

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BILL TOPIC: TRANSPARENCY IN DIRECT PAY HEALTH CARE PRICES

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

^{*} This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Transparency in Health Care Price Act. The act requires certain health care professionals and health care facilities, as defined by the bill, to make a single document available to the public that lists the direct pay prices for the most common health care services provided. Health care professionals and facilities must update the document at least annually and provide the document on request and electronically if a website exists. Under the bill, health care professionals and facilities are not required to submit their direct pay prices to any government agency for review, unless otherwise specified by existing law. The bill does not provide any agency with the authority to approve, disapprove, limit, or change the direct pay prices disclosed by health care professionals or facilities. The bill also prohibits any health insurers or health systems from penalizing a person who pays directly for health care services.

State Expenditures

The bill may increase state expenditures for some agencies, as discussed below.

Department of Higher Education. The bill may increase costs by a minimal amount for some institutions of higher education that operate student health facilities and hospitals. The bill will increase administrative expenses for these institutions to create price lists and post them on their website.

Department of Regulatory Agencies. The bill will increase workload in the DORA by a minimal amount. The Division of Professions and Occupations will need to conduct outreach to educate health care professionals they license about the new requirements. However, any workload increase is anticipated to be minimal and can be conducted within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

To the extent that local governments employ health care professionals and manage health care facilities, the bill may result in a minimal increase in costs and workload. Local governments may need to communicate changes under the bill to health care professionals and ensure that the direct pay prices are accessible to the public. However, this fiscal note assumes that this minimal workload increase can be conducted within existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on March 16, 2015.

State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies
Human Services
Higher Education
Corrections
Judicial

Public Health and Environment Health Care Policy and Financing Counties Sheriffs