Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Rep. Danielson Fiscal Analyst: Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

BILL TOPIC: SUNSET CONTINUE COMMISSION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

| Fiscal Impact Summary* | FY 2015-2016 | FY 2016-2017 | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| This bill changes and continues a program that would otherwise end June 30, 2015, so the fiscal note shows the new and continuing fiscal impacts. | New | New | Continuation |
| State Revenue | | | |
| State Expenditures | | <u>\$1,145,625</u> | |
| General Fund | | | 132,807 |
| Cash Funds | | | 1,012,818 |
| FTE Position Change | | | 6.3 FTE |
| Appropriation Required: None. | | | |

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

Summary of Legislation

Effective July 1, 2015, the bill continues the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (commission) in the Department of Human Services (DHS) for nine years, until 2024. The bill also implements six recommendations from the sunset review, which include:

- requiring the commission to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before September 1 of each year;
- limiting the terms of commissioners to two-consecutive four-year terms;
- repealing the requirement for the Senate confirmation of commission appointments;
- clarifying that the commission also serves persons who are deaf-blind;
- replacing a member of the public with a deaf-blind individual on the commission; and
- making changes to remove obsolete or conflicting language.

Background

Created in 2000, the commission is the state's centralized resource for the deaf and hard of hearing, working to ensure access to communications and public and private services for the approximately 446,000 deaf and hard of hearing residents in the state.

In 2009 Senate Bill 09-144 increased the scope of the commission's duties to include coordinating the work of qualified interpreters and providing assisted-listening devices.

Fiscal Impact of Programs Set to Expire

This bill continues a program in the DHS that is set to repeal effective June 30, 2015. Under current law, state agencies may be appropriated funds to wind up the affairs of an expiring program for 12 months following the repeal date. To account for the wind-up period, the impact of extending the program beyond the current repeal date is shown as beginning in FY 2016-17, one year after the repeal date. There is no need for an appropriation of the \$1,145,625 base funding in FY 2015-16, since the program's authorization has not yet expired, and ongoing funding for the program is included in the department's base budget request for FY 2016-17.

The state expenditures impact for FY 2016-17 reflects the program's base budget request beginning that year, plus any increases to cover the implementation of this bill. Based on the base budget request for the program, continuing expenditures are expected to be \$1,145,625 and 6.3 FTE.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 1, 2015, and it became effective on July 1, 2015.

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services Public Health and Environment Regulatory Agencies Health Care Policy and Financing