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Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 18-1032

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0517
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Kennedy; Thurlow
Sen. Fields

Date: January 19, 2018
Bill Status: House Health, Insurance, and Environment
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Bill Topic: ACCESS MED RECORDS STATE EMS PATIENT CARE DATABASE

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:** State Revenue TABOR Refund
 State Expenditure Local Government (*potential*)
 State Transfer Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires the Department of Public Health and Environment to make individualized patient information in the Emergency Medical Services Agency Patient Care Database available to health information networks. This will result in an ongoing increase in state expenditures, and may increase costs and workload for local governments.

**Appropriation
Summary:** For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation of \$125,000 to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1032

		FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$125,000	\$128,750
	Total	\$125,000	\$128,750
	Total FTE	-	-
Transfers		-	-

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to make individualized patient information in the Emergency Medical Services Agency Patient Care Database (EMS database) available to health information networks. The CDPHE must contract with health information networks regarding access to EMS patient data, and the sharing of patient data must comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Background

The EMS database is an information system maintained by the CDPHE into which EMS providers input data about a patient's condition, services provided, time of services, and other information about an emergency medical situation and response. It is currently used to compile and analyze broad-based trends in EMS care in Colorado. The EMS program is funded by a \$2 fee on all vehicle registrations.

Two health information exchanges - Quality Health Network on the Western Slope and the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) on the Front Range and Eastern Plains - currently operate in Colorado to facilitate the transfer of patient data among hospitals, health providers, and health plans.

State Expenditures

This bill increases costs in the CDPHE by \$125,000 in FY 2018-19 and \$128,750 in FY 2019-20. It is assumed that this cost will be paid from the General Fund given that no other source of funding was specified in the bill. CDPHE currently contracts with a vendor to maintain the EMS database; costs under the bill are based on this vendor creating and maintaining the required data integration with health information exchanges. It is assumed that the vendor contract costs will increase by 3 percent per year.

In addition, the bill requires the CDPHE to contract with health information exchanges concerning the sharing of information from the EMS database. Managing and overseeing these contracts will increase workload for CDPHE staff, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations. At this time, it is unknown if these contracts will increase costs for the CDPHE or if they will simply outline the conditions under which EMS patient data may be used.

Local Government

Counties, municipalities, and special districts that employ EMS personnel may have costs and workload if they choose to obtain patient data from health information exchanges for training and quality control purposes. Currently, this type of data is not available from the CDPHE under the current operations of the EMS database. Any costs or workload for local governments depends on their decision to obtain this data from a health information exchange.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation of \$125,000 from the General Fund to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Health Care Policy and Financing
Higher Education	Information Technology
Law	Municipalities