

**Legislative
Council Staff***Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature***FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0499
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Roberts; Wist
Sen. Cooke

Date: February 15, 2018
Bill Status: House Judiciary
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Bill Topic: EXTEND DISTRICT ATTORNEY FELLOWSHIPS TO 18 MONTHS

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

This bill extends the length of prosecution fellowships from one year to 18 months. It increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation
Summary:** For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation of \$170,748 to the Department of Higher Education.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1102

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Revenue	-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$170,748
Transfers	-	-

Summary of Legislation

This bill extends the amount of time a fellow can participate in the prosecution fellowship program from one year to 18 months.

Background

The fellowship program matches graduates of the law schools at the University of Colorado and University of Denver with rural district attorney's offices. The program was established under Senate Bill 14-174 and began in FY 2015-16. The fellowship program may fund the salary and benefits for up to six graduates each year and must also provide the fellow with a five-day training practicum. To have its graduates considered for participation, each law school must contribute an amount equal to 20 percent of the cost of the fellowship salary. A seven member Prosecution Fellowship Committee, consisting of district attorneys and law school dean representatives, selects graduates for fellowships and identifies placement locations.

Table 2 shows the current state appropriations for the program.

Table 2
State Appropriations for the Fellowship Program

Component	Cost
Salaries	\$244,800
Qualified Retirement Contributions and Medicare	\$35,496
Benefits	\$61,200
Practicum	\$15,000
Total Cost	\$356,496

In addition to the state share, law schools contribute \$61,200, bringing the total program cost to \$417,696.

State Expenditures

By extending the existing program for six months, state program costs are increased by \$170,748 General Fund per year. This represents a 50 percent increase in the expenditures shown in Table 2, less the practicum costs. This analysis assumes that no additional training is required under the bill and that costs will begin July 1, 2018.

While not included in the state share, the fiscal note assumes that participating law schools will increase their respective share by 50 percent, for an additional \$30,600. As of this writing, the exact allocation between the two schools is not known.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2017-18, the bill requires an appropriation of \$170,748 General Fund to the Department of Higher Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

District Attorneys Higher Education Information Technology