



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1397**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0257  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Ryden; Windholz  
Sen. Hodge; Crowder

**Date:** July 27, 2016  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

**BILL TOPIC:** COMPLETION FITZSIMONS VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2015-2016 ( <i>current year</i> )	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
<b>State Revenue</b>			
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Workload increase.		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b>	None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b>	Ongoing potential workload increase.		

### Summary of Legislation

This bill repeals and reenacts, with amendments, the authority of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to build a veterans community living center and assorted facilities on the site of the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, subject to available appropriations. Under the bill, the DHS must use the vacant parcels of land to construct and operate facilities that will provide a continuum of residential care options exclusively for veterans or their qualifying family members.

This bill outlines the requirements for the construction and use of the property. The DHS must seek input from the Board of Commissioners of Veterans Community Living Centers, the State Board of Veteran Affairs, and a statewide coalition of veterans organizations in completing the project. The DHS must also provide progress updates in its annual report and quarterly updates to the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committees of the General Assembly.

### Background

The DHS manages and operates five state veterans community living centers that provide services to veterans and their spouses, widows and in some instances, parents of deceased veterans. Services provided include long-term care, short-term rehabilitation for individuals seeking to return home following a qualifying hospital stay, memory care services for individuals with dementia, short-term respite care, and end of-life/hospice services.

The five Centers are located throughout the state in Aurora (Fitzsimons), Florence (McCandless), Monte Vista (Homelake), Rifle, and Walsenburg. Each facility is Medicare and Medicaid certified and licensed by the Department of Public Health and Environment. Additionally, the Centers are certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to receive federal

funds in support of the care of veterans. The original plan in 1999 for the Fitzsimons Center was for three facilities: a community living center, a domiciliary, and a transitional home, however only the community living center was constructed.

### **State Expenditures**

This bill increases state agency workload beginning in FY 2015-16 as described below.

**Department of Human Services.** Staff time will be needed to assist the statewide planning consultant with the design and planning of the new Fitzsimons facilities. Staff time will also be needed to prepare and provide progress updates in the DHS annual report and to the committees of reference. This increase in workload can be addressed within existing appropriations.

The DHS will be responsible for the operation of the new Fitzsimons facilities once construction has been completed. This will require staff, equipment, and other operating and capital expenditures and these costs will be identified in the latter stages of design and construction. The Veterans Community Living Centers are designated as enterprises and are funded with continuous spending authority through resident fees. DHS will set future fees and pursue available methods of reimbursement to cover the cost of operating the facility.

**Department of Personnel and Administration.** The Department of Personnel and Administration will provide planning and design services for the Fitzsimons project through the Office of the State Architect's statewide planning consultant. No additional appropriations are needed as DPA has a statewide planning appropriation for such projects.

**Department of Local Affairs.** Workload will increase in the Department of Local Affairs for staff time to assist the statewide planning consultant with the design and planning of the new Fitzsimons facilities. This workload can be addressed within existing resources.

**Capital construction costs.** This bill maintains the DHS authority to construct veteran facilities at the Fitzsimons site. It is assumed these costs will be addressed through the annual budget and capital development process.

### **Local Government Impact**

This bill increases workload in the City of Aurora to assist with the planning and design of the Fitzsimons facilities.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 1, 2016.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Human Services  
Military Affairs

Information Technology  
Municipalities

Local Affairs  
Personnel and Administration