



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Bill Topic: EXTEND DIST ATTY FELLOWSHIPS TO 15 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 15 months. It increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2018-19, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$165,726 to the Department of Higher Education.

Fiscal Note Status: The revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill. The bill was not enacted; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1102

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Revenue	-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$165,726
Transfers	-	-

Summary of Legislation

This bill extends the amount of time a fellow can participate in the prosecution fellowship program from one year to 15 months and clarifies that the General Assembly will annually appropriate sufficient moneys for six fellowships each year. Any moneys not expended for salary and benefits may be used for fellow relocation costs or further training. Any unexpended or unencumbered money from the appropriation remains available for expenditures in the next fiscal year for cost of living adjustments without further appropriation.

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 appropriation under current law to \$417,696. It should be noted that the appropriation for this program has not been adjusted since SB14-174 was enacted, although costs have increased.

State Expenditures

By extending the existing program for three months, state costs are increased by \$165,726 General Fund per year, beginning July 1, 2018. Because the bill now requires full funding of six fellowships, this represents an increase in salaries, qualified retirement contributions, medicare, and benefit payments to current law salaries. Participating law schools will be required to match a portion of the salary cost, totaling \$29,700.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Finance Committee on May 7, 2018.

State Appropriations

The bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$165,726 General Fund to the Department of Higher Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

District Attorneys

Higher Education

Information Technology