

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0029

Date: February 4, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Fields

Bill Status: House Local Government

Fiscal Analyst: Kirk Mlinek (303-866-3521)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF THE COLORADO CORONERS STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue	See State Revenue and Expenditures section.	
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill transfers the Coroners Standards and Training Board (CSTB) from the Department of Public Health and Environment to the Department of Law, and makes conforming amendments.

Background

Created by the General Assembly in 2003, the duties of the 8-member CSTB are to:

- develop the 40-hour curriculum for the training of new coroners;
- approve training providers to certify coroners in basic medical-legal death investigations; and
- approve training providers and programs used to fulfill the annual 16-hour in-service training requirements.

CSTB members are appointed by the Governor, serve without compensation, and may be compensated for actual and necessary expenses. The DPHE is authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations to cover costs incurred in the operation of the board. The DPHE, in consultation with the CSTB, is required to hire an independent contractor to perform administrative duties related to the operation of the CSTB. The current administrator is the training director for the County Sheriffs of Colorado, serves as the executive assistant to the CSTB, and is located in Littleton, CO. Other than the transfer of the CSTB to the Department of Law, the bill does not change any of these aspects of the CSTB's organization or operation.

The CSTB is authorized to charge fees and to accept gifts, grants, and donations to cover the costs to operate the CSTB. Revenue is deposited in the Coroner Training Fund (fund), which is continuously appropriated to the CSTB. The CSTB receives some gifts, grants, and donations, and receives revenue from registration fees associated with the new coroners institute (NCI) held after each election. The fund currently has a balance of \$8,145, of which \$7,403 is encumbered for the purchase order for the administrative contractor. The estimated fund balance for June 30, 2013, is \$1,102. Revenue in excess of annual expenses is retained in the fund.

Annual expenses range from approximately \$8,000 in nonelection years to \$ 28,000 in years that the NCI is held. The contract for the administrator ranges from \$4,000 for a nonelection year to about \$7,400 in election years when the NCI is conducted. Annual board expenses are approximately \$4,000. Expenses for conducting the most recent NCI were \$15,800.

State Revenue and Expenditures

The bill transfers the CSTB from DPHE to the Department of Law along with the revenue and expenditures associated with CSTB activities. For FY 2013-14, revenue and expenditures are estimated at \$8,000. For FY 2014-15, a general election year, revenue and expenditures are estimated at \$28,000. This fiscal note assumes that there will be no significant change in the cost for county coroners to participate in CSTB training. NCI registration fees are used to partially defray the costs of the program, with the balance of the costs being paid from gifts, grants and donations and the Coroners Training Fund.

Departments Contacted

Public Health and Environment
Counties

Law
Municipalities

Local Affairs