

**LOCAL
CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0425
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Coram

Date: February 12, 2014
Bill Status: House Local Government
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SHORT TITLE: RECLASSIFY DOLORES COUNTY AS CATEGORY V COUNTY

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

Summary of Legislation

Current law establishes the salary for county officer positions of commissioner, sheriff, treasurer, assessor, clerk and recorder, coroner, and surveyor. For purposes of setting the salary for these positions, counties are categorized into one of six classifications; Dolores County is currently categorized as a Category VI county.

This bill reclassifies Dolores County as a Category V county only if the annual salaries of county officers as set forth in current law are not increased by more than 7.5 percent through legislation enacted during the 2014 legislative session.

Background

For the purposes of establishing the salaries of county officers, current law classifies the state's counties as follows:

- Category I - Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, and Weld counties
- Category II - Eagle, Fremont, Garfield, La Plata, Mesa, Pitkin, and Summit counties
- Category III - Alamosa, Archuleta, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Delta, Gilpin, Grand, Gunnison, Las Animas, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Park, Rio Blanco, San Miguel, Routt, Logan, and Teller counties
- Category IV - Custer, Elbert, Huerfano, Kit Carson, Lake, Ouray, Prowers, Rio Grande, Washington, and Yuma counties
- Category V - Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Hinsdale, Lincoln, Phillips, Saguache, and San Juan counties
- Category VI - Dolores, Jackson, Kiowa, Mineral, and Sedgwick counties

Local Government Impact

The bill conditionally increases the salary of county officers in Dolores County. Salaries under this bill will only increase if the annual salaries of county officers are not increased by more than 7.5 percent pursuant to legislation enacted during the 2014 legislative session. The salary increase is estimated to cost a total of \$28,200 for nine county officers, as shown in Table 1.

Current law prohibits salaries of county officers from being adjusted during the officer's term of service. Dolores County will experience a \$24,100 increase in salaries in January 2015, and the remaining increase of \$4,100 in January 2017, to account for the staggered election cycles of county commissioners.

Table 1. Salary Increases for County Officers in Dolores County under HB14-1223					
Type of Fee	Category VI Salary (Current)	Category V Salary (Proposed)	Salary Increase	Number Affected	Total Increase
Commissioners	\$39,700	\$43,800	\$4,100	3	\$12,300
Sheriffs	46,500	49,100	2,600	1	2,600
Treasurers, Assessors, and Clerks	39,700	43,800	4,100	3	12,300
Coroners	9,000	9,900	900	1	900
Surveyors	1,000	1,100	100	1	100
TOTAL					\$28,200

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 6, 2014, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 7, 2014, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Local Affairs Counties