

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE and LOCAL
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT**

(replaces fiscal note dated February 24, 2014)

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0828 **Date:** March 24, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Fischer **Bill Status:** Senate Agriculture
 Sen. Jones **Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

SHORT TITLE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT & BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS

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

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, black-footed ferrets can be reintroduced in Colorado without legislative approval if the reintroduction:

- occurs on private land with landowner consent; and
- is pursuant to a federal programmatic safe harbor agreement and enhancement-of-survival permit.

The **reengrossed** bill expands that exception to allow a political subdivision to reintroduce black-footed ferrets on its own land. Until July 1, 2019, only three political subdivisions can be authorized by the Division of Parks and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reintroduce black-footed ferrets.

State Expenditures

Until July 1, 2019, the Division of Parks and Wildlife in the DNR is required to limit to three, the number of political subdivisions reintroducing black-footed ferrets. Because the division is only required to track the number of participating political subdivisions and deny authorizations when the cap is reached, this is expected to result in a minimal increase in workload.

The State Land Board (SLB) in the DNR inspects state trust land for damage caused by prairie dogs. As a natural predator of prairie dogs, increased numbers of black-footed ferrets could mitigate damages caused by prairie dogs. If black-footed ferrets are reintroduced by a political subdivision near state trust land, the SLB is expected to increase inspections to those areas to assess the effect on the prairie dog population. This increase in workload does not require new appropriations.

Local Government Impact

Under the bill, political subdivisions are authorized to reintroduce black-footed ferrets with associated costs to obtain necessary permits and to release the animals. As noted above, black-footed ferrets may be effective in controlling prairie dog populations, so reintroduction efforts could reduce costs for land management in affected political subdivisions. However, any potential impact cannot be quantified.

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

Natural Resources
Municipalities

Counties
Special Districts