

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0691	Date: February 11, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Lontine; Landgraf Sen. Aguilar	Bill Status: House Health, Insurance, and Environment
	Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: SCOPE OF PRACTICE CERTIFIED NURSE AIDES

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase and potential cost savings. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows certified nurse aides (CNAs) who are deemed competent by a registered nurse to perform the following tasks:

- digital stimulation, insertion of a suppository, or the use of an enema to stimulate a bowel movement;
- certain tube-based feedings; and
- placement of pre-sorted medication in a patient's mouth if the medication has been boxed or packaged by a registered nurse or pharmacist.

The bill requires the State Board of Nursing (state board) to promulgate rules concerning the competency requirements for CNAs to perform these tasks. A registered nurse is not liable for the actions of a CNA performing these tasks if he or she made a good faith determination of the competency of the CNA in accordance with the rules of the state board.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and may decrease costs for state agencies paying for health care services. These costs and savings are discussed below.

State Board of Nursing. Initially, the bill increases workload in DORA for the state board to implement rules concerning the tasks that may be performed by a CNA and the process for registered nurses to determine CNA competency. There may also be complaints regarding CNA performance that must be investigated and adjudicated by the state board. Overall, the workload increase is assumed to be minimal and no changes in appropriations are required.

Health care savings. To the extent that CNAs are used to perform tasks that otherwise would have been done by a registered nurse, state agencies that employ these professionals, or pay for services performed by them, may have cost savings under the bill. These agencies include the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Potential savings depend on agencies' usage of CNAs and the rates or salaries paid for these services. Overall, savings are assumed to be minimal and no adjustment in appropriations are required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Law

Health Care Policy and Financing
Regulatory Agencies

Human Services
Counties