

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0303 **Date:** January 9, 2015  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Carver; Melton **Bill Status:** House SVMA  
 Sen. Todd **Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

**BILL TOPIC:** ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

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

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, a member of the Colorado National Guard must be involuntarily mobilized for at least 30 days on active military duty, or called to state active duty by executive order of the governor, for the member or his or her family to be eligible for a grant from the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). By eliminating the requirement that mobilization orders be involuntary, this bill expands grant eligibility to all members of the Colorado National Guard subject to active military duty for a minimum of 30 days.

**Background**

**Missions of the Colorado National Guard.** The Colorado National Guard participates in active military duty in conjunction with other armed services of the United States. Mobilization orders may be either involuntary or officially voluntary in nature. In 2014, at least 200 members of the Colorado National Guard are expected to receive voluntary mobilization orders.

**Military Family Relief Fund.** Since its enactment in 2005 (Senate Bill 05-052), the MFRF has funded grants to members of the Colorado National Guard and their families through the Colorado National Guard Foundation. Revenue to the MFRF is provided by a state income tax checkoff, with annual expenditures typically depleting all available revenue. Approximately 30 to 35 grants are awarded per year based on current funding. Eligibility for grants from the MFRF was recently expanded by House Bill 14-1277, which authorized grants to Colorado National Guard members and the families of members who are called to state active duty by executive order of the governor.

**State Expenditures**

The bill results in a minimal workload increase for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), which administers the grant application process for MFRF in collaboration with the Colorado National Guard Foundation. By broadening grant eligibility, the pool of applications is expected to grow, with a corresponding increase in workload. However, changes in eligibility under the bill are not expected to increase caseload beyond the current administrative capabilities of the DMVA or the Colorado National Guard Foundation.

**Assumptions.** The bill does not significantly change the overall amount of revenue to the MFRF or the amount of grant assistance available to eligible families. While the average size of grants may be reduced or the distribution of grants adjusted to account for broader eligibility under the bill, it has no net effect on the income or eligibility of affected families for other public assistance programs.

**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**

Military and Veterans Affairs  
Personnel and Administration  
Health Care Policy and Financing

Revenue  
Law

Human Services  
Treasury