



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Initiative 26

Fiscal Summary

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LCS TITLE: DEFINITION AND PROTECTION OF A LIVING CHILD

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 26

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at www.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State revenue. The measure may increase state revenue from criminal fines and court fees if it leads to an increase in criminal convictions.

State expenditures. The measure may increase state expenditures in several ways. If the measure leads to more persons being charged with criminal offenses, costs may increase for the Attorney General, state law enforcement agencies, and the courts for the investigation and prosecution of individuals charged with criminal offenses. Costs may increase for the Department of Corrections to incarcerate individuals convicted and sentenced to prison under the measure. Finally, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, in order to remain compliant with federal law, may have increased costs to transport a person who is pregnant as a result of rape or incest to another state to obtain an abortion.

Local government impact. Local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys may have increased workload to investigate and prosecute more cases, as well as to receive reporting on illegal activity under the measure. Persons charged with criminal offenses under the measure may be held in a county jail while awaiting trial, which would increase costs for counties.

Economic impacts. The measure prohibits abortion services provided by medical providers, which reduces income and jobs in this sector of the economy. To the extent that additional persons are incarcerated for violating the measure, these individuals will not participate in the labor force, which may reduce income and spending in their households and communities. To the extent that the measure results in more children being born in the state, child-related spending will increase, potentially shifting spending from other areas of the economy. Additionally, labor market participation may decrease for parents or other caretakers. Over the long term, population growth may increase economic activity and output within the state.