



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Initiative 16

Fiscal Summary

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LCS TITLE: LAWS CONCERNING CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 16

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.ColoradoBlueBook.com. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State revenue. This initiative will increase revenue from fine penalties by an indeterminate amount if persons are convicted of the new and modified criminal offenses created by the measure. In addition, fee revenue from brand inspections by the Department of Agriculture may decrease to the extent that more time will elapse before livestock can be slaughtered. These revenue impacts have not been quantified.

State expenditures. The initiative will require additional staffing at the Department of Agriculture to assist in the investigation of animal cruelty investigations. This is expected to cost approximately \$200,000 per year.

Local government impact. Local law enforcement will have increased workload to investigate and prosecute more cases involving animal cruelty. Persons convicted of the new and modified offenses under the initiative may potentially be incarcerated in a county jail, which would increase costs for counties.

Economic impact. By significantly extending the period of time that livestock must be raised and cared for prior to slaughter, the initiative will increase costs for meat producers and increase the price of meat products paid by consumers. Longer periods of livestock care will also increase demand and prices for other commodities such as grain and feed. Higher prices for meat producers and consumers will decrease the amount of money that they have to spend or save elsewhere in the economy. The initiative may shift consumer demand or production activity to other areas of the economy as a result of higher production costs.