



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# Initiative 20

## Fiscal Summary

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### LCS TITLE: CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE

### Fiscal Summary of Initiative 20

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](http://www.colorado.gov/bluebook). This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

**State expenditures.** The initiative will increase state expenditures in future fiscal years to house offenders for longer periods in Department of Corrections facilities instead of releasing them on parole. According to the Department of Corrections, about 449 offenders on average are sentenced to prison for the offenses identified in the initiative and spend on average 12 to 24 years in prison. Actual costs will depend on the change to an offender's length of stay, which are subject to numerous factors and cannot be estimated. For informational purposes, it currently costs \$56,765 per year to house an offender in prison and \$7,749 per year to supervise an offender on parole. The measure will apply to offenders convicted after passage of this measure, so the impacts on the correctional system under the measure would likely start in the mid-2030's and beyond, based on the average sentences for these offenses.

**Economic impacts.** Longer prison sentences will reduce workforce participation, which may reduce economic activity from labor and spending and may increase government spending on prisons and social welfare programs. To the extent that the initiative decreases criminal activity, those otherwise impacted by crime may experience better economic outcomes.