



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

LLS 25-0203: FED. RECOGNIZED TRIBES & CONSTRUCTION OF LAWS

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Published for: Bill Request

Version: Interim Fiscal Note

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft request by the American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill clarifies which laws passed by the General Assembly do and do not apply to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill states that laws passed by the General Assembly are presumed not to apply to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, its land, or its members, unless the law explicitly states that it applies to these populations. This presumption does not apply to non-Indians in tribal lands, nor does the presumption exempt tribal members from civil and criminal laws that apply to the municipalities within the Southern Ute Tribal Reservation.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe may pass its own laws to adopt any law passed by the General Assembly and may notify the legislative and executive branches of which laws it intends to enforce within its lands.

State Expenditures

The executive and legislative branches of the state government may receive communications from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe concerning programs, services, and requirements that will also apply to tribal members. These notifications may result in a small increase in workload to review and respond to these communications, but any workload is assumed to be minimal. In addition, workload may decrease to the extent clarifying the jurisdiction of state laws prevents disputes over sovereign immunity and applicability of laws passed by the General Assembly. No change in appropriations is required for any state agency.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial	Secretary of State
Law	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Legislative Legal Services	

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the General Assembly website.