



Initiative 251

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Impact Statement

Date: May 24, 2024

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LCS TITLE: TITLES FOR REFERRED MEASURES

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available.

Summary of Measure

A ballot title is a short description of a proposed change to state statute or the state constitution that appears on the ballot completed by voters. Under current law, the state Title Board sets titles for citizen-initiated measures, after determining that they meet the constitutional requirement to have a single subject. For measures referred to voters by the state legislature, the ballot title is set in the text of the bill or resolution approved by the legislature that refers the measure.

Initiative 251 requires that the Title Board set titles for any measures or questions referred to voters by the state legislature. The title for referred measures must be set by the Title Board in the same manner as for citizen-initiated measures. Initiative 251 allows the state legislature to pass implementing legislation to enact this change.

State Expenditures

Initiative 251 minimally increases workload in several state agencies, as described below.

Title Board. This measure increases workload for the Title Board, housed in the Department of State, to set titles for additional measures referred to voters by the General Assembly. Generally, this is assumed to affect fewer than five referred measures per year. Staff from the Department of State, the Office of Legislative Legal Services, and the Department of Law serve on the Title Board, and will have increased workload under the measure.

Other agencies. This measure may also increase workload in the state legislature to formulate procedures or to enact legislation regarding the process for the Title Board to set titles for referred measures within legislative session timelines, and for the Judicial Department to consider additional challenges to titles or the process generally.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2024 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislature State