



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

### SB 26-076: CERTIFICATION & PRACTICE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Lindstedt; Frizell

Rep. Richardson; Stewart R.

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note

**Date:** February 6, 2026

**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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#### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill expands the pathways through which individuals may become a certified public accountant in Colorado.

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

- Minimal State Workload

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

| Type of Impact          | Budget Year<br>FY 2026-27 | Out Year<br>FY 2027-28 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 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**

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Under current law, certified public accountants (CPAs) must have a bachelor's degree, complete a professional ethics course, take the CPA examination, and have a year of relevant experience. The bill expands the pathways through which individuals may become eligible for certification as a CPA, including new combinations of bachelor's degrees and work experience, completing a professional ethics course, and taking the CPA examination. The bill clarifies that work experience must represent the skills needed to serve the public at the time of initial certification.

The bill clarifies that an individual CPA who is licensed or certified in good standing in another state or jurisdiction can practice in Colorado without needing to obtain a Colorado certificate, as long as the individual was required to pass the CPA examination and obtain a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The State Board of Accountancy may not require a notice, fee, or other submission as a condition of exercising these privileges.

## **State Expenditures**

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The bill increases workload in the Department of Regulatory Agencies to conduct outreach, and to update rules and publications. The workload impact is expected to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill takes effect January 1, 2027, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Judicial

Regulatory Agencies

Law