



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-037: MODIFICATION OF BOND HEARING OFFICER PROCESS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Rich; Roberts
Rep. Soper; Espenozo

Fiscal Analyst:

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Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 9, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows eligible judicial districts to opt out of the use of a bond hearing officer.

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

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. No appropriation required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	Potential Increase	Potential Increase
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, certain judicial districts are eligible to utilize centralized bond hearing offices to conduct weekend and holiday bond hearings. The bill allows these districts to utilize judicial officers from their own district, instead of bond hearing officers, to preside over weekend and holiday bond hearings, with upon-request administrative support from bond hearing office staff.

Background

Table 2 presents the three bond hearing offices and the districts that participate.

Table 2
Counties Utilizing Bond Hearing Offices

Bond Office 1	Bond Office 2	Bond Office 3
5 th Judicial District	3 rd Judicial District	6 th Judicial District
9 th Judicial District	7 th Judicial District	8 th Judicial District
12 th Judicial District	11 th Judicial District	22 nd Judicial District
14 th Judicial District	13 th Judicial District	
21 st Judicial District	16 th Judicial District	

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2026-27, the bill has the potential to increase state expenditures in the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD), and impacts workload in the Judicial Department.

Office of the Public Defender

Starting in FY 2026-27, the bill may impact expenditures in the OSPD to the extent a judicial district opts out of using a bond hearing office magistrate and instead holds a hearing for that district at the same time as any bond hearing office. Currently, the OSPD has attorneys that follow the combined schedule of the three bond hearing offices. If a judicial district were to opt

out of using a bond hearing office, and then scheduled a bond hearing at the same time as another jurisdiction in the bond hearing offices' schedule, then the OSPD would require additional attorneys to cover both schedules. It is unknown how many districts will opt out of the using bond hearing offices and, if there is an opt-out, when those hearings would occur. For informational purposes, each judicial district that opts out would require the OSPD to hire an attorney at a cost of about \$575 per shift per week.

Judicial Department

The bill increases workload in the department to ensure that judicial officers are able to access the various platforms bond hearing officers use. In addition, to the extent more judicial officers hear weekend or holiday bond hearings, workload to that officer will increase while workload to the bond hearing officer will decrease.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

District Attorneys

Office of State Public Defender

Judicial