



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 26-1103: REPORT CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT & COURTROOM TESTIMONY

**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. Garcia; Goldstein  
Sen. Cutter

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Published for:** House Judiciary**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0382**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** February 12, 2026**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill requires local law enforcement agencies, the Colorado State Patrol, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to report to a child advocacy center when a sex offense against a child is alleged. It also expands exceptions for child witness testimony from kids under 12 years of age to kids under 18 years of age.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- Local Government

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

**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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When a local law enforcement agency, the Colorado State Patrol, or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation takes a report alleging a sex offense against a child, the bill requires the agency to report the allegation to a child advocacy center within the judicial district where the alleged offense occurred within 24 hours. If no child advocacy center is located within the judicial district, then the agency must report the alleged offense to the nearest child advocacy center, even if it is located outside the state. Agencies must also collaborate with the child advocacy center in requesting a forensic interview for the alleged child victim.

Under current law, witnesses under 12 years old may give testimony at a trial in a room other than the courtroom upon a motion by the court or another party if the judge determines that the witness would suffer serious emotional distress or trauma and be unable to communicate if testimony were to be given in the presence of a defendant. The bill applies this provision to any witnesses under 18 years old and creates a rebuttable presumption that testimony by the witness in the presence of a defendant would result in serious distress or trauma. Current law allows remote testimony in this manner via closed-circuit television, which the bill also defines.

## **State Expenditures**

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The bill will minimally increase workload in the Judicial Department and agencies representing indigent offenders to the extent the bill results in longer hearings. The fiscal note assumes the bill will minimally impact the length of hearings. In addition, workload will minimally increase in the Department of Public Safety to follow the procedures established by the bill. The fiscal note assumes that interaction of state law enforcement and investigations of alleged sex offenses against children is limited, therefore no change in appropriations is required.

## **Local Government**

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The bill will increase workload for those local law enforcement agencies that do not currently collaborate with child advocacy centers in responding to alleged sex offenses against children. Workload and expenditures may also increase to travel to child advocacy centers if none are located near the agency.

## **Effective Date**

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

## State and Local Government Contacts

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District Attorneys

Office of the Child's Representative

Judicial

Public Defender

Office of Public Guardianship

Public Safety