



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1038: COUNTY COMMISSIONER REDISTRICTING

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Paschal; Clifford
Sen. Snyder

Fiscal Analyst:

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Published for: Senate SVMA**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0591**Version:** First Revised Note**Date:** February 13, 2026**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

Summary Information

Overview. For counties that elect county commissioners by district, the bill requires boards of county commissioners to appoint independent county commissioner redistricting commissions to develop redistricting plans. The bill removes advisory committees from the redistricting process.

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

- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is 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 | \$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

For counties that elect county commissioners by district, the bill requires that the county commissioners appoint independent redistricting commissions made up equally of members affiliated with the two largest political parties, and members not affiliated with a political party, to develop redistricting plans. County commissioners may not serve on redistricting commissions. County commissioners must direct the redistricting commissions to either:

- approve one final plan that the board of county commissioners is required to adopt; or
- approve at least three final plans from which the board of county commissioners may select the final plan to adopt.

If county commissioners identify elements of a proposed plan that do not comply with the criteria for determining county commissioner districts, the board of county commissioners can direct the redistricting commission to modify the plan and extend the timeline for plan completion. Each redistricting commission is required to adopt a composite formula to determine district competitiveness measured as a percentage.

The bill removes the role of advisory committees that currently support the current county commissioner redistricting commissions. The bill clarifies that it applies to counties whether or not they are home rule counties and specifies that any qualified elector of the county may challenge the adoption of a redistricting plan.

Background

Boundaries for county commissioner districts are redrawn every 10 years based on data from the most recent United States Census. Currently, Arapahoe, El Paso, and Weld counties conduct county commissioner elections by district. Each of these counties appointed independent redistricting commissions supported by advisory committees to develop plans using 2020 U.S. Census data for the previous redistricting.

Local Government

The counties of Arapahoe, El Paso, and Weld, will be required to appoint independent redistricting commissions after the 2030 U.S. Census. At that time, expenditures for staffing, commission member travel and per diem, public hearings, and computer hardware and software will increase, but are expected to be comparable to other redistricting options.

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

Counties
State

Judicial