



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1184: SUNSET PROCESS FOREST HEALTH COUNCIL

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Lukens; Mauro
Sen. Cutter

Fiscal Analyst:

Josh Abram, 303-866-3561
josh.abram@coleg.gov

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Fiscal note status: The revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Committee. The fiscal note has been updated to reflect additional information.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill continues the Colorado Forest Health Council indefinitely.

Types of impacts. The bill's impacts are from continuing a program currently scheduled to repeal, which will extend existing fiscal impacts indefinitely in the following areas:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. The bill requires an appropriation of \$1,168 to the Legislative Department. No appropriation to the Healthy Forest Vibrant Communities Cash Fund is required, as it is continuously appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources.

Table 1
Continuation of Current State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$4,227	\$4,922
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

These impacts result from continuing a program scheduled to repeal and reflect the extension of current spending levels. Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the table below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$1,168	\$1,806
Cash Funds	\$3,000	\$3,000
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$59	\$116
Total Expenditures	\$4,227	\$4,922

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Colorado Forest Health Council in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2026. The bill continues the council indefinitely, as recommended by the Department of Regulatory Agencies in its [2025 Sunset Review](#) of the council.

Background

The 26-member council meets at least quarterly, and has met as many as nine times in the past few fiscal years. Two of its annual meetings are conducted in person. Although there is no dedicated budget in the DNR to support the council, the continuously appropriated Healthy Forest Vibrant Communities Cash Fund administered by the State Forest Service has historically been used to assist with all meeting and administration costs, and also has been used for one-time special projects. These meeting and administrative expenses have averaged \$3,000 annually. Two members of the council are legislators who receive per diem and travel expenses for attending meetings.

Continuing Program Impacts

The DNR is expected to continue to have cash fund expenditures of about \$3,000 annually to administer the council. Expenditures are from the Healthy Forest Vibrant Communities Cash Fund. If this bill is enacted, current expenditures in the DNR will continue for the program starting in FY 2026-27. If allowed to repeal, state expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2026-27 by \$3,000 per year.

The Legislative Department will have a continuation of General Fund expenditures of \$1,227 in FY 2026-27, and \$1,922 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing. These costs assume that two legislators will attend three quarterly meetings outside of the legislative session, and that two of those meetings are in-person and require travel expense reimbursement. Because per diem is treated as salary for accounting purposes, centrally appropriated costs for supplemental PERA payments are also included. These costs are displayed in Table 2. If the council is allowed to repeal, Legislative Department costs will decrease by these same amounts starting in FY 2026-27.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Legislative Department

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Legislative Per Diem	\$672	\$1,310
Travel	\$496	\$496
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$59	\$116
Total Costs	\$1,227	\$1,921

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$1,168 to the Legislative Department. This amount reflects the expected reduction in member per diem and reimbursement that will be included in the Legislative Department FY 2026-27 budget request based on the scheduled repeal of the council.

State and Local Government Contacts

Forest Service

Natural Resources

Legislative Council Staff