



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-077: EPILEPSY-RELATED MORTALITY AWARENESS

Prime Sponsors:
Sen. Jodeh

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to increase epilepsy related mortality awareness through a resource bank, training, reporting, and a public awareness campaign.

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

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of up to \$227,605 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	up to \$245,212	up to \$207,007
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE

Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	up to \$227,605	up to \$196,003
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$17,607	\$11,004
Total Expenditures	up to \$245,212	up to \$207,007
Total FTE	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill implements strategies to increase epilepsy related mortality awareness by:

- requiring the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to compile evidence-based information on epilepsy-related mortalities by July 1, 2027;
- requiring CDPHE to ensure that death investigation professionals are aware of the latest epilepsy-related death investigation recommendations by July 1, 2027, which may include establishing a training;
- requiring death investigation professionals to determine if a suspected death was from a direct result of a seizure or epilepsy and to ensure that the death certificate identifies epilepsy as a contributing cause to death;
- requiring CDPHE to report epilepsy related deaths to a sudden unexpected death in epilepsy registry; and
- requiring CDPHE to conduct a public awareness campaign to expand public awareness about epilepsy and its associated mortality risks by July 1, 2027.

Background and Assumptions

Currently there is a nonprofit that runs a registry called the [North American Sudden Unexpected Death Epilepsy Registry](#), which tracks sudden unexpected death from epilepsy. The fiscal note assumes CDPHE will report required information to this registry instead of creating their own.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDPHE by \$245,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$207,000 in FY 2027-28. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2
 State Expenditures
 Department of Public Health and Environment**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$64,581	\$40,363
Operating Expenses	\$1,024	\$640
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,000	\$0
Training Contractor	up to \$100,000	up to \$100,000
Public Awareness Campaign	\$50,000	\$50,000
Translation Services	\$5,000	\$5,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$17,607	\$11,004
Total Costs	up \$245,212	up to \$207,007
Total FTE	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE

Staff

CDPHE requires 0.9 FTE in FY 2026-27 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2027-28 to coordinate and oversee a training contractor, to create and update a resource bank, to oversee and coordinate a public awareness campaign, and to provide any technical assistance to county coroners to report epilepsy death related information and to report the information to the North American Sudden Unexpected Death Epilepsy Registry. Staff needs decrease in FY 2027-28 as work shifts from procuring a trainer and developing a resource bank to overseeing the trainer and maintaining the resource bank. First-year costs are prorated for a September start date.

Training Contractor

Starting in FY 2026-27, the bill increases costs by up to \$100,000 per year to contract with a third-party to provide a training to death investigators on the latest epilepsy-related death investigation recommendations. The bill is permissive regarding the CDPHE providing this training and the General Assembly may provide funding for this cost at its discretion.

Public Awareness Campaign

Starting in FY 2026-27, the bill increases expenditures by \$50,000 per year to conduct a public awareness campaign. This amount is based off of similar campaigns with a similar size and scope ran by the department.

Translation Services

After the staff creates the resource bank discussed above, CDPHE will require \$5,000 per year to translate all publicly available resources in compliance with federal law.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in Table 2 above.

Local Government

The bill increases workload to local governments that employ death investigators, such as county coroner offices, for this staff to attend training, and to report certain information to CDPHE on epilepsy-related deaths.

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 up to \$227,605 to the Department of Public Health and Environment, and 0.8 FTE.

Departmental Difference

CDPHE estimates the bill costs \$483,684 and 1.5 FTE in FY 2026-27 and \$345,835 and 1.3 FTE in FY 2027-28. This estimate includes costs and FTE to develop a new epilepsy-related death registry and to maintain it in outyears. The fiscal note assumes that reporting can be done to an existing registry and that CDPHE is not required to build a new one.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Public Health and Environment

County Coroners