



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

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HB 26-1276: PROTECT SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS

Prime Sponsors:

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill establishes requirements and civil liabilities related to federal immigration enforcement and state and local compliance.

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

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures
- TABOR Refunds
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$268,967 to multiple state agencies. See State Appropriations section.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$131,643	\$72,315
State Expenditures	\$329,927	\$231,599
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$131,643	\$72,315
Change in State FTE	2.8 FTE	2.4 FTE

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

**Table 1A
State Revenue**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$131,643	\$72,315
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$131,643	\$72,315

**Table 1B
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$236,600	\$148,585
Cash Funds	\$32,367	\$32,367
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$60,960	\$50,647
Total Expenditures	\$329,927	\$231,599
Total FTE	2.8 FTE	2.4 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes requirements and civil liabilities related to federal immigration enforcement and state and local compliance.

Investigation Reporting

By July 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, law enforcement agencies that participate in multijurisdictional coordinated investigations must submit a report the Department of Public Safety (CDPS). The report includes the purpose, participants, and outcomes of these investigations, and may not include personal identifying information. By January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the CDPS must submit a report with this information to the General Assembly. Law enforcement agencies that violate reporting requirements are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000, which is credited to the Immigration Legal Defense Fund.

Personal Identifying Information

Under current law, state agency and political subdivision employees are liable for violating personal information disclosure and written record retention requirements and subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000. The bill extends this liability to the state agencies and political subdivisions themselves.

Federal Subpoenas

State agencies and political subdivisions that receive a subpoena by federal immigration authorities must inform the General Assembly and provide a copy of the subpoena to the CDPS within three days. The CDPS must subsequently publish the subpoena on its website within 24 hours of receiving the copy. If the state agency or political subdivision fulfills the federal subpoena, it must inform the individual that their information has been shared with federal immigration authorities.

Deportation Transportation

The bill prohibits a government entity from transporting individuals detained by federal immigration authorities for deportation purposes. State-regulated airports are also prohibited from entering into an agreement with a commercial airline or entity that transports detained individuals. Government entities and airports are liable for violating these prohibitions, and are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000, which is credited to the Immigration Legal Defense Fund.

Detention Center Inspections

Local Authority

The bill permits a local public health agency (LPHA) to inspect facilities that house noncitizens detained for immigration purposes.

State Authority

Under current law, the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is authorized to inspect facilities that house noncitizens detained for immigration purposes. The bill expands the department's authority to:

- conduct unannounced inspections at least once every three months; and
- examine food safety and water quality, confinement conditions, and standards of care.

The bill also requires detention facilities to:

- pay for the CDPHE inspections;
- provide access to the property, individuals, and records necessary to conduct inspections;
- submit an annual report to the CDPHE, including information about the detained population's health outcomes, adherence to dietary restrictions, and temperature conditions, among others;
- pay for and pass an environmental impact study, and remediate any negative impacts identified;
- prohibit the detention of a minor in the same room as a nonfamilial adult; and
- staff the facility with medical and mental health professionals.

Detention facilities are liable for violating these provisions, and are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each offense, which is credited to the Immigration Legal Defense Fund. Alternatively, the CDPHE may revoke the violating facility’s license to operate in the state.

By January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the CDPHE must submit a report to the Attorney General regarding facility compliance, and publish the report on its website.

Background and Assumptions

Under current law, the CDPHE may perform inspections on licensed facilities as deemed necessary. As of March 2026, one facility in the state operates as a detention center, which the department inspected annually through 2025, and each month of 2026. Further, the CDPHE received 11 complaints for this facility in the past year. The department anticipates that six additional detention centers will open within the next year, each requiring additional inspections and resulting in additional complaints. The fiscal note assumes that facility inspections and complaints will occur regardless of the bill, but that the breadth of inspections will increase to cover additional facility requirements, and complaints will increase as a result of additional reporting and transparency on facility conditions.

State Revenue

The bill increases state revenue by about \$132,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$72,000 in future years from facility inspection remittance payments to the CDPHE. These impacts, credit to the General Fund, are shown in Table 2 and discussed below. Revenue may also increase from civil penalties and filing fees. All revenue is subject to TABOR.

Table 2
Facility Inspection Payments

Fund Source	Number of Facilities	Total Number of Inspections	Estimated Cost per Inspection	Total Revenue Collected
FY 2026-27	7	84	\$1,567	\$131,643
FY 2027-28	7	84	\$861	\$72,315

Inspection Payments

Beginning in FY 2026-27, the CDPHE will recover the costs to inspect detention centers through remittance payments from an estimated seven licensed facilities. It is assumed that the department will perform the additional work required to comply with the bill, and charge each facility upon completion. Based on estimated expenditures, state revenue will increase by about \$1,600 per inspection in FY 2026-27, and \$860 in future years. Actual inspection costs will be set administratively by the CDPHE based on expenses incurred, and the number of facilities and inspections subject to the bill.

Civil Penalties and Filing Fees

Under the bill, entities that violate statutory provisions may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation, credited to the Immigration Legal Defense Fund. The bill may also increase revenue to the Judicial Department from an increase in civil case filings.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by about \$330,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$232,000 in future years. These costs will be incurred in the CDPS, CDPHE, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as shown in Table 3 and described in the sections below. Costs are paid from the General Fund and various DNR cash funds.

Table 3
State Expenditures
All Departments

Department	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Department of Public Safety	\$157,107	\$118,107
Department of Public Health and Environment	\$131,643	\$72,315
Department of Natural Resources	\$41,177	\$41,177
Total Costs	\$329,927	\$231,599

Department of Public Safety

State General Fund expenditures in the CDPS will increase by about \$157,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$118,000 in future years for staff and database development implementation, as shown in Table 3A and discussed below.

Staff

Beginning in FY 2026-27, the CDPS requires 1.4 FTE for the Colorado State Patrol to compile multijurisdictional investigation data from over 1,200 cases and for the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to collect, review, and publish investigation reports and federal subpoenas from law enforcement agencies.

Database Development and Maintenance

The department requires an estimated \$40,000 to develop a database for multijurisdictional reporting data submitted by law enforcement agencies. Ongoing maintenance is expected to cost \$8,000 per year beginning in FY 2027-28.

**Table 3A
 State Expenditures – CDPS**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$80,525	\$80,525
Operating Expenses	\$1,792	\$1,792
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,000	\$0
Database Development and Maintenance	\$40,000	\$8,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$27,790	\$27,790
Total Costs	\$157,107	\$118,107
Total FTE	1.4 FTE	1.4 FTE

Department of Public Health and Environment

State General Fund expenditures in the CDPHE will increase by about \$132,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$72,000 ongoing for staff, as shown in Table 3B and discussed below.

Staff

In FY 2026-27, the CDPHE requires 1.0 FTE for the Division of Health and Sustainability to facilitate rulemaking, coordinate outreach to licensed facilities, conduct more comprehensive inspections of detention centers, and respond to complaints. Beginning in FY 2027-28, staff needs reduce to 0.6 FTE for ongoing oversight. If additional complaints arise as a result of the bill’s reporting requirements, staff costs will further increase, which will be addressed through the annual budget process.

**Table 3B
 State Expenditures – CDPHE**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$106,003	\$57,499
Operating Expenses	\$1,280	\$768
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$24,360	\$14,048
Total Costs	\$131,643	\$72,315
Total FTE	1.0 FTE	0.6 FTE

Department of Natural Resources

State expenditures in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will increase by about \$41,000 beginning in FY 2026-27, as shown in Table 3C and discussed below. Costs are paid from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund and the Wildlife Cash Fund.

Staff

Beginning in FY 2026-27, the DNR requires 0.4 FTE for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to compile multijurisdictional investigation data from over 260 task force cases per year. This estimate assumes that each case requires three hours to coordinate across local, state, out-of-state, and federal officials and obtain the required information for reporting.

Table 3C
State Expenditures – DNR

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$32,367	\$32,367
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$8,810	\$8,810
Total Costs	\$41,177	\$41,177
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE

Other State Agencies and Impacts

Legal Defense

State expenditures may increase for the Department of Law to defend the state if a plaintiff files suit directly challenging the legality of the bill. For context, the department's Federal Initiatives Unit is currently defending two cases filed against the state that directly challenge previous legislation limiting state engagement with federal immigration authorities. If an additional lawsuit is filed as a direct challenge to this bill, costs in the department could increase by an estimated \$240,000, representing about 1,700 hours of legal services. Due to a wide array of decisions made by individuals and scope of potential cases, the fiscal note cannot estimate this impact. It is assumed that the Department of Law will use existing appropriations for litigation and legal expenses to address any cases that arise related to this bill. If additional appropriations are required, funding will be requested through the annual budget process based on the actual costs incurred, which will depend on the number of cases, their outcomes, and how they proceed through the legal process.

State Litigation and Risk Impacts

The bill may increase litigation and risk management costs from additional lawsuits filed against state agencies and employees if they violate provisions under the bill. If such cases occur, state agencies and institutions of higher education will have increased costs for legal services, provided by the Department of Law. Depending on the outcome of any cases, settlement or liability payments may be required from the Risk Management Fund in the Department of

Personnel and Administration. State agencies make payments for legal services and risk management through common policy billings based on costs incurred in prior years. The fiscal note assumes that state agencies and employees will comply with the bill; therefore, any increase in litigation and risk management costs is expected to be minimal.

Civil Cases

Workload in the Department of Law will minimally increase to the extent that additional complaints are filed. The department will review complaints under the bill and prioritize investigations as necessary within the overall number of complaints and available resources. Additionally, trial courts in the Judicial Department may experience a minimal increase in workload if additional civil cases are filed under the bill. The fiscal note assumes that state agencies will comply with the law and any increase will be minimal.

Investigative Reporting

Workload will increase for law enforcement agencies such as the Departments of Corrections, Higher Education, Human Services, and Revenue to compile multijurisdictional investigation data and submit an annual report to the CDPS. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Federal Subpoenas

Workload will minimally increase for state agencies that receive federal subpoenas to inform the General Assembly and provide a copy to the CDPS. If the agency fulfills the subpoena, workload will further increase to inform the individual that their information has been shared with federal immigration authorities. Due to the limited number of federal subpoenas received by state agencies in 2025, this workload is estimated to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

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 the tables above.

TABOR Refunds

The bill is expected to increase the amount of state revenue required to be refunded to taxpayers by \$131,643 in FY 2026-27 and \$72,315 in FY 2027-28. This estimate assumes the December 2025 LCS revenue forecast. A forecast of state revenue subject to TABOR is not available beyond FY 2027-28. Because TABOR refunds are paid from the General Fund, increased General Fund revenue will increase the TABOR refund obligation, but result in no net change to the amount of General Fund available to spend or save in FY 2026-27, FY 2027-28, and any future years when the state is over its revenue limit.

Local Government and Special Districts

Similar to the state, expenditures and workload will increase for local governments and special districts to compile multijurisdictional investigation data and report federal subpoenas. Risk and liability costs, legal services, and settlement costs for local governments may also increase to the extent that lawsuits are filed. However, it is assumed that local governments and employees will comply with the bill.

If a local government agency or special district contracts with the federal government for immigration enforcement transportation, contractor revenue and transportation expenditures will decrease.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires the following appropriations:

- \$129,317 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, and 1.4 FTE;
- \$107,283 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Health and Environment, and 1.0 FTE;
- \$11,328 from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund to the Department of Natural Resources, and 0.4 FTE; and
- \$21,039 from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Department of Natural Resources.

State and Local Government Contacts

All State Agencies

All Local Agencies