



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-031: USE OF PRESCRIPTION PROD WITH CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Lindstedt; Rich
Rep. Camacho; Soper

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Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill provides a mechanism to align Colorado’s controlled substance schedule for any changes to the federal controlled substance schedule or approvals for prescription drug use.

Types of impacts. The bill potentially affects the following areas, conditional on future federal actions:

- State Revenue
- State Workload
- 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

The bill exempts controlled substances from being a schedule 1 substance under Colorado's Uniform Control Substance Act if the substance:

- is approved for prescription use by the federal Food and Drug Administration;
- designated or rescheduled by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);
- dispensed by a pharmacy or prescription drug outlet registered in Colorado; and
- possessed only by a person authorized to possess a controlled substance.

Any product containing the exempted substance must be controlled in the same manner as the DEA and any rescheduling of a prescription drug product is automatic and immediate upon the DEA's rescheduling. The bill does not apply to natural medicine products.

State Revenue and Expenditures

Criminal Justice Agencies

Conditional on federal action, the bill may impact state revenue and expenditures to the extent rescheduling a substance changes criminal prosecutions and sentences. Rescheduling and approving certain schedule 1 substances for prescription use may decrease the number of criminal cases filed for possessing or selling the substance. However, criminal penalties for misuse of a prescription drug still apply. Any net change to the number of criminal cases filed or sentences imposed will depend on the current number of criminal cases for the controlled substance and the potential future violations related to prescription drug misuse, which may both vary depending on the substance/drug involved. Generally, it is assumed that any change from federal changes to reschedule and approve a substance for prescription use will decrease revenue to the Judicial Department from criminal fees and fines and reduce workload and costs in criminal justice agencies such as the Judicial Department, offices that represent indigent offenders, and the Department of Corrections.

Local Government

Workload in district attorney offices may increase to track any rescheduling efforts by the federal government. This additional work is likely to be minimal due to the assumed infrequency that such federal action will occur. Similar to the state, it is assumed that any decrease in prosecutions for schedule 1 drug offenses may be offset by an increase in misuse of prescription drug offenses. Overall, it is assumed that the net change will be a reduction in costs to district attorneys and jails following any federal action.

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

Corrections

Regulatory Agencies

District Attorneys

Revenue

Judicial

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).