



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1113: MODIFICATIONS TO ELECTIONS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Sirota; Willford
Sen. Wallace; Weissman

Fiscal Analyst:

Hamza Syed, 303-866-4976
hamza.syed@coleg.gov

Published for: Senate State Affairs

Drafting number: LLS 26-0161

Version: First Revised Note

Date: March 31, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill makes several modifications to election laws.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2026-27:

- State Expenditures
- State Revenue
- Local Government

Appropriations. For the current FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$10,000 to the Department of State.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Current Year FY 2025-26	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$0	up to \$715,300
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$10,000	\$0	\$715,300
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0	up to \$715,300
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes several modifications to the election laws in Colorado. Among its many changes, the bill:

- sets additional communication standards for institutes of higher education concerning ballot drop off locations and voting resources;
- reduces the number of days voting service and polling centers (VSPC) need to open in certain university campuses;
- requires all VSPCs that experience a shortage of election supplies, such as ballots, remain open, and may remain open after 7:00 pm;
- requires county clerks to report to the Secretary of State (SOS) about excess wait times and delays at VSPCs on election day, and requires the Secretary of State to hold a hearing based on this report;
- adds a timeline by which county clerks must adapt modifications to the SOS written plan for mail ballot elections, and for the Secretary of State to review that plan;
- removes the requirement that election judges be sent certificates of acceptance by mail prior to their appoint, and provides additional flexibility on the method for election judges to accept an appointment;
- increases the number of days before an election that ballots must be mailed.;
- increases the number of days before an election that drop boxes may accept ballots;
- changes the requirements for voting in county jails and detention centers to be based on the number of beds in the facility;
- allows preregistered voters who will be eighteen on or before the next election to update their voter information;
- integrates geographic information to the statewide voter registration system;
- repeals the requirement that voluntary ballot markings be redacted; and
- clarifies that a person cannot be a candidate for more than one office to be voted on in the same election.

State Revenue

The bill is estimated to increase fee revenue to the Department of State by up to \$715,300 in FY 2027-28 only.

Fee Impact on Businesses

Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. Under current law, the Department of State (DOS) is authorized to adjust fees so that the revenue generated approximates its direct and indirect costs. The DOS is primarily funded through business filing fees. To cover the costs described in the State Expenditures section below, fees will likely need to be raised in FY 2027-28 by up to \$715,300 to cover all or some of the costs of this bill. The fees affected, the timing of any increase, and the actual amount of fee charges will be set administratively by the DOS based on cash fund balance and total program costs.

State Expenditures

The bill is expected to increase one-time state expenditures in the Department of State by \$10,000 in the current FY 2025-26 and about \$715,000 in FY2027-28. There is also minimal workload in the Department of Higher Education. These costs are described below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of State

Cost Component	Current Year FY 2025-26	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Computer Programming	\$10,000	\$0	\$712,800
Geocoding Updates	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Total Costs	\$10,000	\$0	\$715,300
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Department of State

Computer Programming

The DOS must make immediate changes to allow preregistered voters who will be 18 by the 2026 election to edit their voting record. This is estimated as a one-time cost of 80 hours at a rate of \$125 an hour. In addition, DOS must update the statewide voter registration system starting in FY 2027-28 to allow for geographical information and geocoding addresses for all voters. This will require a one-time cost about \$713,000 for 5,280 hours of programming at a rate of \$135 an hour.

Geocoding Updates

DOS will need to use a cloud service to geocode all addresses into the voter registration system. This will be an initial cost of \$2,500 starting in FY 2027-28 for inputting the current voters, and an ongoing cost to update the records.

Department of High Education

Institutions of higher education already provide versions of the communication requirements of the bill. Any changes to current practices are minimal and absorbable within the current workload of the schools.

TABOR Refunds

The bill is expected to increase the amount of state revenue required to be refunded to taxpayers by up to \$715,000 in FY 2027-28. This estimate assumes the March 2026 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 cash fund revenue will reduce the amount of General Fund available to spend or save in FY 2027-28.

Local Government

The bill results in both increased costs and savings for counties. Clerks in certain counties will be able to decrease the number of VSPCs in universities, as well as decrease the total number of hours certain jails operate a VSPC. Certain counties will also save costs they pay to redact ballot markings, and save costs from no longer needing to mail certificates to election judges.

Costs will increase from opening and staffing ballot boxes earlier. There may also be increased costs for additional staffing hours for VSPCs that runs low on supplies, and increased workload from filing reports and holding hearings for any voting delays.

The exact costs and savings vary by each county and have not been estimated in this fiscal note.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For the current FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Department of State.

State and Local Government Contacts

Secretary of State

County Clerks

Department of Higher Education

Counties

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](#).