



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1368: ELIMINATE LIMITED GAMING FUND TRANSFER

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Sirota; Taggart
Sen. Amabile; Bridges

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of its FY 2026-27 Long Bill Budget package.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill eliminates an annual transfer from the Limited Gaming Fund to the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund, which results in this funding instead being diverted to the General Fund.

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

- State Expenditures
- State Transfers and Diversions

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	-\$2,100,000	-\$2,100,000
Transferred/Diverted Funds	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Fund sources are identified in the tables below.

**Table 1A
 State Transfers and Diversions**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund (via the Limited Gaming Fund)	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
Cash Funds (Innovative Higher Education Research Fund)	-\$2,100,000	-\$2,100,000
Net Transfer/Diversion	\$0	\$0

The bill eliminates a transfer from the Limited Gaming Fund to the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund, which results in this funding being diverted to the General Fund.

**Table 1B
 State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds (Innovative Higher Education Research Fund)	-\$2,100,000	-\$2,100,000
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	-\$2,100,000	-\$2,100,000
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the state treasurer transfers \$2,100,000 at the end of each fiscal year from the Limited Gaming Fund to the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund. The bill eliminates this annual transfer starting in FY 2026-27.

Background

The Innovative Higher Education Research Fund supports the work of the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority (CHECRA), administered by the Department of Higher Education. The CHECRA provides state matches to federal research grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy and other competitive federal grants that either require or incentivize state matches. In recent years, funding from the CHECRA has been distributed to the University of Colorado, the Colorado State University, the Colorado School of Mines, and the National Alliance for Water Innovation. More information is available in the CHECRA's required [report](#).

State Transfers and Diversions

The bill diverts \$2.1 million per year from the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund to the General Fund starting in FY 2026-27, as described below.

The bill eliminates an annual \$2.1 million transfer from the Limited Gaming Fund to the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund starting in FY 2026-27. Under current law, any amount remaining in the Limited Gaming Fund after certain required transfers in statute is then required to be transferred to the General Fund. By eliminating the transfer to the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund, \$2.1 million per year will instead be transferred to the General Fund.

State Expenditures

The bill will reduce state expenditures by \$2.1 million in FY 2026-27 and ongoing in the Department of Higher Education to support state matching for federal grant projects through CHECRA. Institutions of Higher Education that participate in the CHECRA may also see a reduction in research expenditures in future years.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

State and Local Government Contacts

Joint Budget Committee Staff

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](#).