



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-048: REMOVE EXCEPTION TO MARRY WITH JUDICIAL APPROVAL

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Hinrichsen; Marchman
Rep. Joseph; Garcia

Fiscal Analyst:

Julia Group, 303-866-4720
julia.group@coleg.gov

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Version: First Revised Note
Date: April 13, 2026

Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill, as amended by House Judiciary.

Summary Information

Overview. This bill limits the ability of 16- and 17-year-olds to get married with judicial approval to only cases where the age difference between the individuals getting married is less than 10 years.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- State Revenue

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

Under current law, judicial approval and appointment of a guardian ad litem (GAL) is required for individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age to get married. Individuals younger than 16 are not permitted to marry. This bill limits the ability of 16- and 17-year-olds to get married with judicial approval to only situations where the age difference between the individuals getting married is less than 10 years.

Background

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, from 2019 to 2026 there were five marriages involving a minor and someone who was more than 10 years older than the minor.

State Revenue

By prohibiting 16- and 17-year-olds from marrying individuals who are 10 or more years older, the bill minimally decreases state revenue from two sources. First, revenue from marriage licenses will minimally decrease. This fee is currently \$30, of which \$23 is revenue to the state (\$20 to the Domestic Abuse Program Fund and \$3 to the Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund) and \$7 is retained by counties. Second, the bill will minimally decrease filing fee revenue to the trial courts in the Judicial Branch from cases where 16 and 17 years olds petition for judicial approval to marry.

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2026-27, the bill minimally decreases workload in the Office of the Child Representative and the Judicial Department, as described below.

Office of the Child's Representative

Expenditures in the Office of the Child's Representative are expected to minimally decrease due to the prohibition of marriages of minors with more than a 10-year age gap. The prohibition is expected to reduce the number of guardian ad litem appointments in underage marriage cases. Given the small number of these cases, this workload reduction is minimal. No change in appropriation is required.

Judicial Department

The bill is anticipated to minimally reduce trial court workload in the Judicial Department by prohibiting marriages of minors with a greater than 10-year age gap. The prohibition is expected to reduce the number of minor marriage cases in front of the court. Given the small number of these cases, this workload reduction is minimal. No change in appropriation is required.

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

Counties	Judicial
County Clerks	Office of the Child's Representative
Human Services	Public Health and Environment