



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HCR 26-1004: PERSON'S RIGHTS RELATED TO THEIR CHILDREN

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. DeGraaf; Bradley

Sen. Baisley; Zamora Wilson

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Version: Initial Fiscal Note

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced concurrent resolution.

Summary Information

Overview. The concurrent resolution refers a ballot question to the 2026 general election to amend that state constitution that, if approved by voters, expands the definition of "inalienable rights" to include a person's right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children.

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

- State Expenditures
- 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 concurrent resolution refers a ballot measure to voters at the November 2026 election. If approved, the measure expands the definition of “inalienable rights” to include a person’s right to direct the upbringing, education and care of their children.

State Expenditures

The concurrent resolution will increase state election expenditures to refer a measure to the ballot, paid using existing appropriations. It may also result in future laws passed by the General Assembly or decisions by the courts concerning rights related to children. The impact of any future legislation or court decisions has not been estimated.

Election Expenditure Impact – Existing Appropriations

This bill includes a referred measure that will appear before voters at the November 2026 general election. While no additional appropriation is required, certain election costs are incurred by the state when ballot measures are referred. These include reimbursing counties for increased election costs; publishing the text and title of the measure in newspapers across the state; and preparing and mailing the Blue Book.

Future Impacts Concerning the Care and Education of Children

Depending on future legislation, court decisions, and other policy changes in response to this amendment, if adopted, state expenditures regarding children, health care, education, and other areas may change. Workload and costs in the trial courts and appellate courts may also increase if legal questions arise on how to apply or interpret the rights outlined in the measure. It is assumed that any costs will be addressed through future legislation or the annual budget process if necessary.

Local Government

Similar to the state, costs for school districts, counties, and other local governments may change if the amendment is approved by voters. Any potential impacts will depend on future legislation, court decisions, and other policy changes to apply the rights outlined in the measure.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2026 election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Early Childhood

Human Services

Education

Law