



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note Memorandum

TO: Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

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DATE: March 31, 2026

Fiscal Assessment of L.001, L.002, and L.003 to HB26-1314

This memorandum is an assessment of the fiscal impact of the attached proposed amendments L.001, L.002, and L.003 to House Bill 26-1314. This fiscal assessment is for the impact of the bill with inclusion of these amendments only. Any other added amendment could influence the fiscal impact.

Summary of Proposed Amendment

The package of amendments (L.001, L.002, and L.003) make the following changes to the bill:

- removes provisions of the bill creating a foster care prevention services pilot program and requiring an evaluation of the pilot program (L.001);
- removes provisions of the bill concerning parenting time disputes (L.001);
- removes provisions of the bill allowing noncustodial parents to be referred for supervised or facility family time services when they are compliant with child support obligations (L.001);
- removes provisions of the bill requiring the courts to make specific findings when entering a final adoption decree or when denying, reducing, restricting or terminating a grandparent's post-adoption contact agreement (L.001);
- clarifies the statutory definition of "grandparent" and "great-grandparent" to include situations where the parent of the child is deceased (L.002);
- removes provisions of the bill concerning temporary placement of a child with a relative or kin without a hearing, including the requirement that a modified safety and suitability assessment and background check be conducted within certain timelines (L.003);



- specifies that the court must order counties to document its “diligent” efforts, rather than its “active” efforts, to contact all grandparents and other adult relatives after a child is removed from their home and a temporary placement is required (L.003);
- repeals a provision in current law requiring the courts to consider credible evidence of a grandparent’s past conduct of child abuse when considering a request for legal custody of a child by a grandparent or for the placement of a child with the grandparent (L.003); and
- modifies existing statutory language requiring the court to give preference to relative or kin when making a temporary placement of a child by creating a rebuttable presumption that placement of a child or youth with a relative or kin is in the best interests of the child, rather than specifying that the court should give this preference unless it finds that such a placement is not in the best interest of the child (L.003).

Fiscal Impact of Amendment

Amendments L.001, L.002, and L.003 eliminate the estimated expenditures shown in the initial fiscal note published March 25, 2026. The amendments remove key state and local cost drivers described in the fiscal note, including creation of a pilot program; IT costs to establish additional linkages between the Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Judicial Department; new requirements on temporary placements of children with relatives and kin; and required findings by the courts during certain placement and adoption proceedings.

Bill’s Revised Fiscal Impact with Amendment

With Amendments L.001, L.002, and L.003, the bill minimally affects workload for the courts during certain child placement cases by modifying how information on the best interest of the child is considered and removing specific instructions related to the consideration of prior conduct by grandparents. In addition, the CDHS may be required to update certain rules or guidance for counties related to kinship care and grandparents. Overall, any state impact is assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

For counties, any additional workload to document their “diligent” (rather than “active”) efforts to find appropriate relative placements is assumed to be minimal.



Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts with Amendments L.001, L.002, and L.003

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