



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1238: DESIGNATING EMS ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Johnson; Lukens

Sen. Baisley; Lindstedt

Fiscal Analyst:

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Bill Outcome: Signed into Law

Drafting number: LLS 26-0043

Version: Final Fiscal Note

Date: May 19, 2026

Fiscal note status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill designates emergency medical services, including ambulance and air ambulance services, an essential service in the state.

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

- Minimal State Workload

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 bill designates emergency medical services (EMS), including ambulance and air ambulance services, an essential service in the state. It also clarifies that off-duty EMS providers are not obligated to respond to medical emergencies.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Public Health and Environment to update EMS standards and provider scope of practice. Given the limited scope of these changes, it is assumed this workload and any costs can be accomplished within existing resources and no change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 5, 2026, and takes effect August 12, 2026, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Public Safety
Governor	Regulatory Agencies
Health Care Policy and Financing	Special District Association
Municipalities	Transportation
Personnel	Treasury
Public Health and Environment	

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](#).