



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

### SB 26-026: WEIGHT FOR VEHICLES WITH CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Catlin; Mullica  
Rep. Lieder; Winter T.

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Bill Outcome:** Signed into Law  
**Drafting Number:** LLS 26-0332

**Version:** Final Fiscal Note  
**Date:** June 23, 2026

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

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill modifies state requirements for child restraint systems to apply to motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 16,000 pounds.

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

- Minimal State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload
- 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**

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Under current law, state requirements for child restraint systems apply to motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds. The bill increases this threshold to 16,000 pounds.

## **Comparable Crime Analysis**

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Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain analysis in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, or that either reclassifies or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. This section identifies comparable crimes and discusses assumptions on future conviction rates resulting from the bill.

## **Prior Conviction Data**

This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of violating state law regarding child restraint systems, a class B traffic infraction, by increasing the weight threshold for the definition of motor vehicle. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, 1,831 were convicted and sentenced for this offense. Of the persons convicted, 938 were male, 886 were female, and 7 did not have a gender identified. Demographically, 1,417 were White, 140 were Black/African American, 187 were Hispanic, 15 were Asian, 32 were American Indian, 24 were classified as "Other," and 16 did not have a race identified. The fiscal note assumes that overall infractions will minimally increase as a result of the bill. Visit the [Fiscal Notes website](#) for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

## **State Revenue and Expenditures**

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The fiscal note may increase revenue and workload for trial courts in the Judicial Department if the bill results in more traffic infraction cases. The fiscal note assumes a similar number of cases to current law, and that any revenue or workload increase to the trial courts will be minimal.

## **Local Government**

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Similar to the state, any increase in revenue and workload from additional municipal court filings is expected to be minimal.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 20, 2026, and takes effect on August 12, 2026, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Judicial

Regulatory Agencies

Revenue

Transportation

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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](#).