



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1256: PROCEDURES & DATA INDIVIDUAL'S RELEASE FROM DOC

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Jackson; Mabrey

Sen. Cutter

Fiscal Analyst:

Aaron Carpenter, 303-866-4918

aaron.carpenter@coleg.gov

Bill Outcome: Signed into Law

Drafting Number: LLS 26-0586

Version: Final Fiscal Note

Date: July 9, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Department of Corrections to provide \$100 to offenders released from custody.

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

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. No appropriation is required; see State Appropriations section.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	\$141,038	\$281,974
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 requires the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) to provide \$100 to each individual released from custody. By September 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the CDOC is required to publish a report to its website that includes information about release allowances, and include this reporting during its annual SMART Act hearing.

In addition, the bill requires offenders to affirmatively notify the CDOC if they wish to opt-out of the Colorado Offender Identification Program. The bill prohibits the CDOC from charging a fee to an offender during the process of securing an offender's identification. The CDOC is required to provide information about offender identification during its annual SMART Act hearing.

Background

Release Allowance

Currently, the CDOC provides a \$100 release allowance—also referred to as “gate money”—to individuals who qualify under [Administrative Regulation 200-01](#). The CDOC has spent an average of \$325,726 per year on release allowances over the past five years.

Offender Identification

The CDOC currently has processes to procure identification documents for offenders. This includes working with the Social Security Administration and the Department of Revenue on social security cards and state identification cards, respectively. Any identification issuance denial comes from the issuing agencies. Additionally, the department currently collects data on offenders who affirmatively opt-out of participation in its Offender ID program, and does not charge for IDs.

CDOC Dress Out Line Item

As part of the FY 2025-26 supplemental process, the CDOC requested a [decrease of \\$400,000](#) from their “dress out” line item, which includes release and transportation allowances, due to underspending the line item. According to the request, the department has underspent by approximately \$400,000 per year over the last five fiscal years. The Joint Budget Committee [denied the request](#) on March 5, 2026.

Assumptions

According to the [CDOC Monthly Report for February](#), the department released 6,216 individuals in FY 2023-24, 6,218 individuals in FY 2024-25, and are on pace to release 5,798 individuals in the current FY 2025-26. This results in a projected three-year average of 6,077 individuals released from the CDOC. The fiscal note assumes that all individuals released will receive \$100 in release allowance. Since this cost falls below current CDOC underspending on the dress out line item, as discussed in the Background section, the fiscal note assumes costs for this bill require no change in CDOC appropriations.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDOC by about \$141,000 in FY 2026-27 (half-year impact) and by \$282,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Corrections

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Release Allowance – All Offenders	\$141,038	\$281,974
Total Costs	\$141,038	\$281,974

Department of Corrections

Using the assumptions outlined above, the fiscal note calculates the cost of providing \$100 in gate money for 6,077 offenders per year, less average annual spending for those offenders who qualify for this funding under current CDOC regulations. Costs in the first year are prorated for a January 1, 2027, starting date.

As outlined in the Assumptions section, the CDOC currently has an Offender ID program; no change in appropriations is required.

Finally, the bill increases workload for the department to collect and report the required data on release allowances and ID issuance. This work can be accomplished within existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by Governor on June 3, 2026, and takes effect January 1, 2027, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

Due to the underspending of the dress out line item outlined in the Background and Assumptions sections, the fiscal note assumes that the additional expenditures can be covered by existing appropriations, therefore, no change in appropriation is required for FY 2026-27.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections

Revenue

Public Health and Environment