



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-279: COLORADO CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE UPDATES

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Ball; Pelton B.
Rep. Duran; Hartsook

Fiscal Analyst:

Aaron Carpenter, 303-866-4918
aaron.carpenter@coleg.gov

Published for: Senate State Affairs

Drafting number: LLS 25-1021

Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: April 7, 2025

Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill incorporates the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice into the Colorado Code of Military Justice around punishable offenses and the statute of limitations, and makes other clarifying changes.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
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 incorporates the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice into the Colorado Code of Military Justice around punishable offenses, and the statute of limitations. In addition, the bill applies the state code to members of the state military force, except when ordered to active federal service, clarifies a commanding officer's authority to impose non-judicial punishment, updates procedures around courts-martial, repeals courts of inquiry from the state code, and requires the state military forces to defer felony prosecution to the district attorney when there is concurrent civilian and military jurisdiction.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases state expenditures in two ways. First, to the extent policies require updating for the state military force, workload to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will increase. Second, to the extent the bill leads to more criminal cases in state court, rather than military court, workload to the Judicial Department will increase. The fiscal note assumes additional cases will be minimal and any workload from the bill will be minimal.

Local Government

Similar to the state, to the extent the bill increases the number of cases prosecuted by district attorneys, workload will increase. This workload is assumed to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect September 1, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed. It applies to offenses committed on or after this date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial

Military Affairs

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](#).