



Fiscal Summary

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Measure: Initiative 108 – PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF A MINOR

Analyst: Clayton Mayfield, clayton.mayfield@coleg.gov, 303-866-5851

Date: August 4, 2025

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 108

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State Expenditures

The measure increases state expenditures in the Department of Corrections (DOC) beginning in about 14 years, based on current sentencing patterns. At that time, costs will increase for about 3 individuals who would have otherwise been released on parole after serving their sentence for a class 2 felony to instead continue serving a life sentence for a class 1 felony. In the first year of this impact, costs will increase by about \$50,000 after accounting for longer incarceration and the reduced parole population. This cost will compound each year by an additional \$50,000 as more offenders remain incarcerated instead of being released. Eventually, costs will reach an equilibrium when the population increase from new offenders serving longer prison sentences is offset by a decrease from life sentences ending. Costs for medical care will also increase from keeping offenders in prison longer. Lastly, workload in the trial courts and the Office of the Public Defender will minimally increase to try and defend longer cases with enhanced penalties.

Local Government

Workload will minimally increase for district attorneys to prosecute longer cases with enhanced penalties. Counties fund district attorney offices.

Economic Impacts

Incarcerating individuals for longer sentences will reduce workforce participation, which may reduce economic activity from labor and spending and may increase government spending on prisons and social welfare programs. If the initiative decreases criminal activity, individuals otherwise affected by such crimes may experience improved economic outcomes. Overall, the measure is not expected to have a tangible impact on state economic activity given the small number of individuals currently sentenced for the crimes referenced in the measure.