



# Fiscal Summary

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

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**Measure:** Initiative 245 – STATE AND LOCAL INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

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### Fiscal Summary of Initiative 245

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](http://leg.colorado.gov/bluebook). This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

#### State Revenue

The measure requires fines for individuals who illegally prevent the collection of signatures; however, details on what level of government is responsible for the enforcement, collection, and disposition of fine revenue is not included in the measure. Should enabling legislation determine that the state enforce these provisions and collect fines, state revenue may increase.

#### State Expenditures

This measure is expected to increase the number of additional citizen-initiated ballot measures in the future, which will increase workload and costs for several agencies. These impacts are described below.

##### Judicial Department

The measure likely increases the number of ballot-related court hearings, and shifts workload and costs for these hearings from district courts to the state Supreme Court by requiring that the Supreme Court act as the court of primary jurisdiction for all protests and appeals related to citizen initiatives. Overall, this is expected to result in a minimal net increase in costs for the Judicial Department.

##### Legislative Department

An increase in the number of filed initiatives may require increased staff resources and printing costs for the State Ballot Information Booklet sent to all voters.

# Initiative 245

## Department of State

Under current law, the Department of State may only process statewide ballot measures. The measure allows citizens to initiate both state and local petitions with the department, thus increasing the department's workload. The department may also require additional funding for a one-time campaign advertising the change in the initiative process.

In addition, the Department of State is prohibited from using the current statistical verification processes for validating petition signatures, and instead is restricted to counting and reporting the completion of petition forms, which potentially increase the workload for internal department staff and reduces the cost paid to their current petition processing vendor, the Department of Personnel and Administration.

## Local Government

Local governments without a petition process will be required to establish such a process, incurring administrative and computer programming costs. Local governments may also experience an increase in the number of petitions received. Changes in local government revenue and expenditures will depend upon the number of petitions filed.

The measure may require that any county clerk's office process any state or local citizen initiative. These provisions potentially increase workload and costs for county offices to assume these tasks. This includes processing citizen initiatives, preparing printed ballot petitions, verifying signatures, and validating petitions. Local governments will also have increased costs for legal services to attend to protests and appeals heard in the Supreme Court.

## Economic Impacts

While this measure may impact the number and type of citizen-initiative measures proposed or enacted in the future, the initiative itself is not expected to have a direct economic impact on the state.