



Fiscal Summary

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Measure: Initiative 236 – COLORADO INDEPENDENCE

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Date: March 16, 2026

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 236

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 Revenue

The measure decreases state revenue to by eliminating all sources of federal funding, which makes up approximately 30 percent of the state budget. Assuming there is no change to the budget upon becoming an independent nation, Colorado would be required to raise taxes and fees to recoup the loss of these federal funds.

State Expenditures

The measure would increase state expenditures to establish custom and border control operations; implement treaties and install ambassadors; establish trade agreements or tariffs; and make up for the loss of federal funds to health care, transportation, education, income-assistance programs, and other areas.

Local Government

Similar to the state, local governments would lose revenue from federal funds, and would need to increase taxes and fees to make up for the loss in federal funding.

Economic Impacts

This measure would have significant economic impacts to households and businesses. Businesses would no longer be part of any currently established trade agreements, and would be impacted by any new trade agreements, tariffs, or taxes established by the independent nation of Colorado. It is expected many companies would leave Colorado. Households would also have less access to certain products or services provided through free trade or federal programs.

Initiative 236

Taxpayer Impacts

The measure would have significant impacts to taxpayers. While individuals and businesses would no longer pay federal taxes, they would also no longer receive federal assistance and incentives. Colorado may need to raise taxes to make up for the loss of federal funds, which would impact individuals, property owners, and businesses.