



Fiscal Impact Statement

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

INITIATIVE 287: COLORADO INDEPENDENCE

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Date: June 4, 2026

Summary Information

Overview. The measure amends the Colorado Constitution to establish Colorado as an independent nation.

Types of impacts. The measure is projected to affect the following areas:

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available. Any appropriations required to implement this measure will be addressed through the annual or supplemental budget process if this measure is approved by voters.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

| Type of Impact | Budget Year FY 2026-27 | Out Year FY 2027-28 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| State Revenue | \$0 | \$0 |
| State Expenditures | Indeterminate | Indeterminate |
| Transferred Funds | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in State FTE | Indeterminate | Indeterminate |

Summary of Measure

The measure amends the Colorado Constitution to establish Colorado as an independent nation, and makes the Colorado Constitution the law of the land.

State Expenditures

The measure may decrease state spending in all state departments by eliminating all sources of federal funding, which comprises approximately 30 percent of the state budget.¹ However, federal funding reductions will be offset from Colorado retaining tax revenue it otherwise distributes to the federal government. Departments utilizing a greater percentage of federal funds—such as the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing, Human Services, Labor and Employment, and Military and Veterans Affairs—would experience larger budget impacts. However, reductions may be further offset by an increase in spending from other state funds to maintain existing programs and services, at the discretion of the General Assembly.

As an independent nation, Colorado would also have new responsibilities, including, but not limited to, establishing customs and border control operations, managing international relations, setting trade policy, and performing federal department functions, all of which may increase state expenditures.

Local Government

Similar to the state, local governments will have budget impacts related to the elimination of federal funding, which may be supplanted by state funding.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Council Staff

¹ [FY 2025-26 Appropriations Report](#), Joint Budget Committee Staff.