



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 24-0860 Date: March 4, 2024
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Velasco; Garcia Bill Status: House Judiciary
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Bill Topic: SECURE FIREARM STORAGE IN A VEHICLE

Summary of Fiscal Impact: [X] State Revenue [] State Transfer [X] Local Government
[X] State Expenditure [] TABOR Refund [] Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires locked, hard-sided containers for the storage of firearms left in unattended vehicles. Starting in FY 2024-25, the bill increases state revenue and state and local expenditures.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$42,120 to the Department of Natural Resources.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1348

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2024-25, Out Year FY 2025-26. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires firearms left in unattended vehicles to be stored in locked, hard-sided containers, excluding glove boxes. The penalty for a violation is a civil infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$500. Exceptions are provided for antique firearms, peace officers, and lawful hunting.

Additionally, the bill updates statutes on local ordinances regarding firearms in private vehicles, concealed carry permits, notices firearms dealers must provide, and the firearms safe storage campaign to reflect the requirements of the bill.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. Using Judicial Department data, the following section outlines crimes that are comparable to the offense in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

- **Unlawful storage of a firearm in a vehicle.** This bill creates the new offense of unlawful storage of a firearm in a vehicle, a civil infraction. To form an estimate on the prevalence of this new crime, the fiscal note analyzed the existing offense of unlawful storage of a firearm, a class 2 misdemeanor, as a comparable crime. From FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23, 20 persons, or about 7 per year, were sentenced and convicted for this existing offense. Of the persons convicted, 14 were male and 6 were female. Demographically, 16 were white, 3 were Black/African-American, and 1 was Hispanic.

Based on the low average yearly convictions for the comparable crime, the fiscal note assumes that there will be minimal or no additional case filings or convictions for the new offense under the bill.

- **Failing to post notice.** This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of firearm dealers failing to post notice, an unclassified misdemeanor, by requiring notices to include information about safe storage of firearms in vehicles. From FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23, zero offenders have been sentenced and convicted for this offense.

The fiscal note assumes that there will continue to be minimal or no additional criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill.

Visit leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Revenue

By creating a new civil infraction, the bill will increase state revenue from fines and court fees by a minimal amount beginning in FY 2024-25, credited to the Fines Collection Cash Fund, various other cash funds in the Judicial Department, and the General Fund. The fine penalty for this civil infraction is up to \$500. Additionally, court fees may be imposed on a case-by-case basis for a variety of court-related costs. Because the courts have the discretion when imposing a fine, a precise state revenue impact cannot be determined. Criminal fine and court fee revenue is subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

The bill increases expenditures primarily in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by about \$42,000 in FY 2024-25 only, paid from the Wildlife Cash Fund, and increases workload in the Judicial Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), as described below.

Department of Natural Resources. The DNR requires \$42,120 in FY 2024-25 only to purchase containers for the transportation of firearms from a total of 10 hunter outreach locations and 18 hunter education locations. Although the bill provides exceptions for peace officers and lawful hunting, the DNR operation of hunter outreach and education programs involving the transportation of firearms falls outside these exceptions, requiring the purchase of hard-sided containers to comply with the bill. The programs allow individuals to provide their own firearms, or to use firearms provided by the DNR, and occur at various locations across the state. More information on these programs can be found [here](#). Large containers capable of holding multiple firearms cost \$460 each, and small containers for a single firearm cost \$40 each. One large container and two small containers are required at each of the 10 hunter outreach locations, with four large containers and five small containers required at each of the 18 hunter education locations.

Judicial Department. This bill will increase workload and costs for the trial courts in the Judicial Department to process additional case filings. Workload and costs may also increase in the agencies that provide representation to indigent persons, including the Office of the State Public Defender and the Office of Alternate Defense Counsel. Overall, it is assumed these impacts can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The bill increases CDPHE workload for FY 2024-25 only to update its materials and website concerning safe storage of firearms. This increase is expected to be minimal, and no change in appropriations is required.

Local Government

Similar to the state, it is expected that any workload or cost increases for district attorneys to prosecute more offenses under the bill will be minimal. District attorney offices are funded by counties.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$42,120 from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Department of Natural Resources.

State and Local Government Contacts

District Attorneys	Education	Judicial
Natural Resources	Public Health and Environment	Public Safety

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](#).