



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1065: JURY DUTY OPT-OUT FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Barron
Sen. Frizell

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Published for: House State Affairs**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0558**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** January 21, 2025**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows persons over 70 years of age to opt out of jury service. The bill also allows persons enrolled in an out-of-state higher education institution to temporarily opt out of jury service.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$95,523 to the Judicial Department.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$114,067	\$122,131
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	1.0 FTE	1.2 FTE

¹ Fund sources for this impact are shown in Table 1A below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$95,523	\$99,878
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$18,544	\$22,253
Total Expenditures	\$114,067	\$122,131
Total FTE	1.0 FTE	1.2 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill allow persons aged 70 years and older to temporarily or permanently opt out of jury service upon request. Judges and jury commissioners may request documentation to determine eligibility for excusal from jury service; these documents are not public records.

The bill also allows persons who enrolled at an institution of higher education in another state to temporarily opt out of jury service if they are enrolled in at least twelve credit hours of courses at the out-of-state institution. As with the age exemption, the court may request documentation for these excusals and these documents are not public records.

Background

According to the [Association for the Advancement of Retired Persons](#), 41 states offer an exemption from jury service based on age. The minimum age required to request exemption from jury service ranges from 65 years old to 80 years old nationwide.

Assumptions

Based on data from the Minnesota State Court Administrator's office, an average of 31,325 persons each year between 2022 and 2024 were excused from jury service due to their age in Minnesota. Minnesota currently allows all persons 70 and older to request exemption from jury service, similar to the bill. After adjusting for population and demographic differences between Minnesota and Colorado, it is estimated that 28,451 persons will request to temporarily or permanently be excused from jury service each year in Colorado based on their age.

Court staff will take 5 minutes, on average, to process an excusal based on age. This time includes all communication with the person who wishes to be excused, any review of their documentation, and entering the request into the courts' case management system.

Court staff will take 1 minute, on average, to process an excusal based on out-of-state enrollment in a higher education institution for an estimated 5,240 persons.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Judicial Department by \$114,000 in FY 2025-26 and \$122,000 in FY 2026-27 and ongoing. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Judicial Department

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$65,826	\$78,991
Operating Expenses	\$950	\$1,140
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,400	\$400
Mailing Costs for Additional Jury Summons	\$19,347	\$19,347
One-time Redesign Costs for Jury Forms	\$2,000	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$18,544	\$22,253
Total Costs	\$114,067	\$122,131
Total FTE	1.0 FTE	1.2 FTE

Staff

The Judicial Department will require 1.2 FTE Judicial Clerk II at the mid-range to process the additional documents and communicate with persons over the age of 70 and students in out-of-state institutions, as detailed in the Assumptions section above. Costs are prorated to assume a September 2025 start date and include standard operating and capital outlay costs.

Other Judicial Costs

The Judicial Department will mail approximately 28,451 additional jury summons annually to maintain a consistent jury pool for courts statewide. Printing and mailing each jury summons costs 68 cents, resulting in \$19,347 in mailing costs annually.

Additionally, the Judicial Department will require 20 hours of software development to redesign the jury summons to include information about these new exemptions and instructions for individuals who may be able to claim them. This results in \$2,000 of one-time expenses.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table above.

Local Government

Similar to the state, workload will increase for Denver County Court staff to document opt-outs.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$95,523 to the Judicial Department, and 1.0 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Judicial

Denver County Courts

Municipalities

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](#).