



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1116: DOC SEARCH COURT RECORDS BEFORE OFFENDER RELEASE

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Armagost; Bacon
Sen. Pelton R.

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Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. Due to time constraints, this analysis is preliminary and will be updated following further review and any additional information received

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Department of Corrections to conduct a search for outstanding warrants and cases for offenders in its custody.

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 an appropriation of at least \$60,899 to the Department of Corrections.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact ¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	at least \$75,692	at least \$86,027
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	at least 0.8 FTE	at least 1.0 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$60,899	\$67,536
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$14,793	\$18,491
Total Expenditures	\$75,692	\$86,027
Total FTE	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to conduct a search for any outstanding warrants for persons in DOC custody under the following circumstances:

- initial admission to the DOC;
- upon initial comprehensive evaluation of the Time Computation Unit;
- six months after admission;
- between three and six months before a community corrections eligibility date; and
- upon request of the Public Defender liaison.

If after conducting the search the DOC finds an outstanding warrant or case, the DOC must notify all relevant parties outlined in the bill.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of Corrections by at least \$76,000 in FY 2025-26, \$86,000 in FY 2026-27, and similar amounts ongoing. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects workload in other criminal justice agencies.

**Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Corrections**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$52,205	\$65,256
Operating Expenses	\$1,024	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	\$0
Software Costs	\$1,000	\$1,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$14,793	\$18,491
Total Costs	at least \$75,692	at least \$86,027
Total FTE	at least 0.8 FTE	at least 1.0 FTE

Staff

The DOC needs at least 1.0 FTE to conduct searches and to notified the required parties outlined in the bill. According to the department’s December 2024 monthly population report, there were 5,741 admissions and 5,372 releases. This totals at least 11,100 searches in one year. Assuming at least 11 minutes to search for cases and to notify impacted parties, this will require at least 1.0 FTE.

This estimate is preliminary. It does not include an estimate for the number of searches that may be requested by the public defender liaison, nor does it include the other three instances where a search is required. As such, the caseload estimate, as well as the amount of time it takes to search and notify parties, may be revised.

Software Costs

The department will require additional licenses for their computer system to conduct more searches. This cost is preliminarily estimated at \$1,000.

Other Criminal Justice Impacts

The bill may impact other criminal justice agencies, such as the trial courts and agencies that represent indigent offenders, if the bill results in more criminal cases. The fiscal note assumes any additional cases will be minimal.

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, if the bill results in more criminal cases, workload to District Attorneys will increase. This is assumed to be minimal.

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 at least \$60,899 to the Department of Corrections, and 0.8 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections

Information Technology

District Attorneys

Judicial

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](#).