



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1163: FREE ACCESS TO STATE PARKS FOR CO UTE TRIBES

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Stewart K.; Taggart
Sen. Roberts; Simpson

Fiscal Analyst:

Alexa Kelly, 303-866-3469
alexa.kelly@coleg.gov

Published for: House Ag., Water & Natural Res.**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0500**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** February 13, 2025**Fiscal note status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Ute tribe members to access state parks without having to pay a fee.

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

- State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

| Type of Impact | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| State Revenue (Cash Funds) | -\$39,400 | -\$39,400 |
| State Expenditures | \$0 | \$0 |
| Transferred Funds | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in State FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.0 FTE |

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows for enrolled members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to access any Colorado state park without paying an entrance fee. Members of the tribes must present a current tribal identification card with an intact photo.

Assumptions

Based on 2023 population data, the fiscal note assumes that 1,770 passes are purchased annually by members of the state's Ute tribes each year. Park passes range from \$7 to \$74, with the Keep Colorado Wild Pass at \$27 being the most common purchase.

State Revenue and Expenditures

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in the Department of Natural Resources, will incur an ongoing decrease in park entrance fee revenue of approximately \$40,000 beginning in FY 2025-26 from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund. Since Colorado Parks and Wildlife has enterprise status, this revenue change will not have any impact on TABOR refunds.

The department will also incur a minimal increase in workload to implement the new entry regulation.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

Revenue

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](#).