



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-061: FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES & CONSTRUCTION OF LAWS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Simpson
Rep. Weinberg; Joseph

Fiscal Analyst:

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Published for: Senate Judiciary

Drafting number: LLS 25-0345

Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 12, 2025

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill clarifies which laws passed by the General Assembly do and do not apply to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- Local Government
- Tribal Government

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	\$0	\$0
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 states that laws passed by the General Assembly are presumed not to apply to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, its land, or its members, unless the law explicitly states that it applies to these populations. This presumption does not apply to non-Indians in tribal lands, nor does the presumption exempt tribal members from civil and criminal laws that apply to the municipalities within the Southern Ute Tribal Reservation.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe may pass its own laws to adopt any law passed by the General Assembly and may notify the legislative and executive branches of which laws it intends to enforce within its lands.

State Expenditures

To the extent that the legislative and executive branches are notified of laws the Southern Ute Indian Tribe will enforce within its lands, workload will increase to record these notices as appropriate. No change in appropriations is required for any agency.

Local and Tribal Governments

If the Southern Ute Indian Tribe enacts legislation that adopts a law passed by the General Assembly, workload will increase for legal representatives of the tribal government to communicate with the executive and legislative branches.

Local governments located near the Southern Ute Tribal Reservation may have increased workload to communicate with the tribe regarding legislation.

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

Judicial	Legislative Legal Services
Law	Secretary of State
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	