

SB 25-064: SAFE2TELL HANDLE WITH CARE NOTICE

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Marchman Rep. Clifford

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Fiscal Analyst:

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Version: Initial Fiscal Note **Date:** January 28, 2025

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Safe2Tell program in the Department of Law to provide a handle-with-care notice to a school when a student has had a traumatic event at home.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas beginning with FY 2026-27:

State Expenditures

School Districts

Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1 **State Fiscal Impacts**

| | Budget Year | Out Year | Out Year |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Type of Impact | FY 2025-26 | FY 2026-27 | FY 2027-28 |
| State Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| State Expenditures (Cash Funds) | \$0 | \$39,372 | \$40,278 |
| Transferred Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in State FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.0 FTE |

Summary of Legislation

Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, the bill requires the <u>Safe2Tell</u> program in the Department of Law (DOL) to provide a handle-with-care notice to a school when an enrolled student has experienced a traumatic event that occurred at the child's home. Traumatic events include situations such as domestic violence, serious accidents, or abuse and neglect.

Beginning August 1, 2026, a peace officer who responds to an incident involving a traumatic event must report the name and age of the child involved to the Safe2Tell program. Once received, the program must send a handle-with-care notice to the child's school before the start of the next school day. The notice must only include the child's name and the phrase "handle with care."

A school that receives a handle-with-care notice shall only share the notice with appropriate school staff, and is not required to take any specific action with respect to the child or the notification.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by \$39,372 in FY 2026-27, by \$40,278 in FY 2027-28, and similar amounts ongoing, paid from the Peace Officer Standards and Training Cash Fund. The DOL will have information technology costs to purchase an annual subscription for a software plug-in that allows its Safe2Tell system to process handle-with-care notifications. The software costs are expected to adjust annually based on inflation. The FY 2027-28 estimate assumes an inflation rate of 2.3 percent.

Local Governments and School Districts

Local law enforcement will have an increased effort when responding to incidents involving an adverse childhood experience and must report the name and age of the child involved to Safe2Tell. Once the notification is received by the state, local schools and school districts will get a notification that the enrolled student has experienced a traumatic childhood event, and can plan additional supports where necessary.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

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State and Local Government Contacts

Law