



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-067: PROSECUTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CHANGES

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Simpson; Roberts
Rep. Martinez; Winter T.

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Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 4, 2025

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill modifies the prosecution fellowship program in the Department of Higher Education.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2025-26:

- Institutions of Higher Education
- Local Governments

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 makes several changes to the prosecution fellowship program in the Department of Higher Education (CDHE), which provides funding to the Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) to support fellowship placements of recent law school graduates in rural district attorneys' offices. Currently, the program is limited to graduates of the University of Colorado (CU) and University of Denver (DU) law schools, deans of these law schools serve on the program committee, and these schools must contribute to total fellowship costs for their graduates to be considered.

Under the bill, program funding is provided directly to rural district attorney's offices at the determination of the program committee in order for those rural offices to recruit, hire, and retain new deputy district attorneys. The bill defines rural district attorney's office to include specific judicial districts only, and modifies the composition of the fellowship committee to remove the CU and DU law school deans.

The CDAC is required to report on the program to the legislature by January 1, 2028.

Background and Assumptions

[Senate Bill 14-174](#) established the prosecution fellowship program. Since FY 2015-16, the program has been funded by an annual appropriation of \$356,496 to the CDHE. The fiscal note assumes the same level of program funding.

Institutions of Higher Education

The bill removes the requirement that CU contribute toward the cost of up to six fellowships per year, and that the CU law school dean serve on the fellowship committee, which reduces workload and expenditures for CU.

Local Government

Rural district attorney offices in the third, fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and twenty-second judicial districts that apply for and are selected to participate in the program will have an increase in direct funding to recruit, hire, and retain new deputy district attorneys.

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

District Attorneys

Judicial

Higher Education