



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-149: LOCAL GOVERNMENT DUTIES EQUESTRIAN PROTECTIONS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Daugherty
Rep. Feret

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires counties and municipalities to incorporate a variety of elements to city planning to accommodate equestrians and establishes requirements for motor vehicle operators driving in an equestrian zone.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- Local 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 requires counties and municipalities to incorporate a variety of elements to city planning to accommodate equestrians, including:

- identifying locations for and maintaining equestrian road crossings;
- installing signs notifying the public of the equestrian crossings and equestrian zones;
- educating the public on the equestrian use of recreational trails and roads; and
- showing existing or proposed equestrian infrastructure in any master plan and publishing a map of the locations.

Counties and municipalities may also organize public events to educate residents about the equestrian use of roads and recreational trails.

Requirements for Roadways in Equestrian Zones

The bill establishes requirements for drivers and riders utilizing roads within an equestrian zone. The Department of Revenue is required to adopt rules to add road provisions to driver's education curriculum.

Education by the Department of Local Affairs

The Division of Local Government in the Department of Local Affairs must educate county sheriffs and other law enforcement agencies about equestrian zones and motor vehicle driver requirements.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. The following section outlines crimes that are comparable to the offense in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Prior Conviction Data and Assumptions

This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of a pedestrian improperly using a highway, a class B traffic infraction, by permitting an individual riding or leading a horse to travel with the direction of traffic. From FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24, 11 individuals have been convicted and sentenced for this offense. Of the persons convicted, 8 were male and 3 were female. Demographically, 6 were White, 3 were Black/African American, 1 was American Indian, and 1 did not have a race identified.

The fiscal note assumes that there will be minimal or no fewer criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill. Because the bill is not expected to have a tangible impact on criminal justice related revenue or expenditures at the state or local levels, these potential impacts are not discussed further in this fiscal note. Visit leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Expenditures

Overall, the impact on state expenditures is expected to be minimal to affected departments, as discussed below.

Department of Local Affairs

The Division of Local Government in the Department of Local Affairs will have a minimal increase in workload to educate law enforcement on equestrian trail and road provisions. This is anticipated to be a one-time function that can be done using existing resources. If ongoing education for law enforcement becomes necessary, then additional appropriations may be required.

Department of Transportation

Expenditures in the Department of Transportation will increase minimally to post additional signage on state highways to notify highway users of equestrian zones. Each sign costs approximately \$2,500, and the extent expenditures will increase will depend on the number of areas that are designated as equestrian zones and how many signs need to be posted.

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue will see a minimal increase in workload to add equestrian zone provisions to driver's education guidelines.

Local Government

Counties and municipalities will have increased costs to designate and manage equestrian zones. The exact cost will depend on the number of equestrian zones that are established. Expenditures will increase to implement the bill's signage and infrastructure requirements and to enforce compliance on an ongoing basis. If a county or municipality is required to update its master plan prior to its next scheduled update, then additional costs will be incurred to meet the January 1, 2032, deadline. Local governments may need to increase fees or shift funding from other uses to cover the costs of implementation.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Revenue

Local Affairs

Sheriffs

Municipalities

Transportation

Police Chiefs

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](#).