



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

### SB 25-151: MEASURES TO PREVENT YOUTH FROM RUNNING AWAY

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Michaelson Jenet  
Rep. Froelich

**Fiscal Analyst:**

Shukria Maktabi, 303-866-4720  
shukria.maktabi@coleg.gov

**Published for:** Senate Health & Human Services

**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0344

**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note

**Date:** February 13, 2025

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

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill creates measures to help prevent children and youth from running away from residential child care facilities.

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

- State Expenditures

**Appropriations.** For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$144,000 to the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	\$144,000	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

## Summary of Legislation

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The bill creates measures to prevent children or youth from running away from residential child care facilities, as described below.

The Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) must contract with an institution of higher education or a third-party to create a runaway risk assessment tool, plan a statewide data platform for collecting data on children or youth who run away from facilities, and conduct an inventory survey of the physical infrastructure needs of the state's residential child care facilities. The CPO must report on activities by June 1, 2026.

By July 1, 2026, each residential child care facility must develop a policy that outlines how they respond to a child or youth who threatens or attempts to run away. They must provide a copy of the policy to guardians during intake at the facility. Facilities must notify guardians within 24 hours after discovering that a youth is missing.

## State Expenditures

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The bill results in one-time costs in the CPO of \$144,000 in FY 2025-26. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects workload in the Department of Human Services and potentially for a state institution of higher education.

**Table 2**  
**State Expenditures**  
**Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman**

<b>Cost Component</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2026-27</b>
Contractor	\$144,000	\$0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$144,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman

In FY 2025-26 only, the CPO requires \$144,000 to contract with an institute of higher education or third-party consultant to create the risk assessment tool, plan data systems, and assess facility infrastructure. Workload will also increase to report on activities to the General Assembly. Contractor costs are based on estimates provided by potential vendors.

### Institutions of Higher Education

If contracted by the CPO, workload and costs for the selected institution will increase, with costs paid through the contract with CPO described above. These impacts depend on contracting decisions made by the CPO.

## **Department of Human Services**

Workload will increase to ensure that residential child care facilities licensed by the department comply with new requirements. This workload is minimal and can be accomplished within existing resources.

## **Effective Date**

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

## **State Appropriations**

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For FY 2025-26, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$144,000 to the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Behavioral Health Administration	Human Services
Child Welfare	Information Technology
Counties	Law
Health Care Policy and Financing	Office of The Child Protection Ombudsman
Higher Education	