



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

BILL 5: FOOD WASTE REDUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Prime Sponsors:

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Published for: Bill Request

Version: Interim Fiscal Note

Drafting number: LLS 25-0212

Date: September 26, 2024

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Representative Hugh McKean Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill encourages school districts to adopt policies to reduce food waste.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- School Districts

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
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 encourages school districts and charter schools to adopt policies aimed at reducing food waste in school cafeterias. These policies may include:

- “share tables” where whole food or beverage items that students choose not to consume may be redistributed to others;
- composting; and
- other food waste reduction initiatives.

The policies for share tables may address the foods that can and cannot be shared/reused and compliance with local sanitation and health requirements.

Schools are encouraged to seek technical assistance and grant funding for these policies from the Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise (C3), housed with the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and other appropriate organizations. C3 is encouraged to consider reducing food waste in schools through share table programs through its promotions and outreach.

Finally, the bill extends limited immunity from civil and criminal liabilities to staff and schools that supervise share tables and other food waste reduction programs.

State Expenditures

Staff at CDPHE may have an increase in workload to distribute grants and technical assistance to any school that implements these waste reduction policies and requests assistance. Revenue received by the C3 enterprise is continuously appropriated for use by the enterprise and supporting policies such as share tables and composting is within the scope of C3’s current duties. Thus, no change in appropriations is required to potentially support these efforts at schools.

To the extent civil and criminal immunity regarding waste reduction strategies prevents some cases from being filed/brought to the trial courts, workload in the Judicial Department may decrease by a minimal amount. No change in appropriation is required.

School District

School districts and charter schools that choose to implement waste reduction policies will have increased workload to develop these policies, consult with outside organizations, and comply with sanitation and health requirements. The fiscal note assumes that school districts will choose to implement these waste reduction policies if they have the funding available, or the capacity to seek technical assistance and funding to accommodate new share tables, composting and other waste reduction strategies.

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

Counties

Education

Law

Municipalities

Public Health and Environment

School Districts

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.