



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

June 12, 2024

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Natalie Castle, Director, 303-866-4778
SUBJECT: Colorado Open Records Act Maximum Hourly Research and Retrieval Fee

Summary

Pursuant to Section 24-72-205 (6), C.R.S., the maximum hourly fee for the research and retrieval of public documents in response to a Colorado Open Records Act will increase from \$33.58 to \$41.37 as of July 1, 2024.

State law allows government agencies to charge a fee for the research and retrieval of public documents that shall not exceed this amount, although they shall not charge a fee for the first hour of time expended on each request. Before increasing the fee, government entities must revise and publish their Colorado Open Records Act policies to include the new fee.

Methodology

The \$7.79 increase resulted from inflating \$33.58 by the percentage change in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood consumer price index for all items and all urban consumers, published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, between the first half of calendar year 2019 and the first half of calendar year 2024. Because the index for the first half of 2024 has not yet been released, the index used for the first half of 2024 represents the average of indices published for January, March, and May 2024. Each year's contribution toward the total \$7.79, or 23.2 percent, change is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1
Annual Contributions Toward the Total \$7.79 (23.2%) Increase
First Half of 2019 to First Half of 2024



Source: Staff calculations using the CPI-U for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.