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Fiscal Note

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Prime Sponsors:

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Bill Status: Bill Request
Fiscal Analyst: Clayton Mayfield | 303-866-5851
clayton.mayfield@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- School District
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates the Gun Violence Prevention in Schools Task Force within the Department of Public Health and Environment and requires local education providers to give notices to parents or guardians about firearm safe storage requirements. The bill increases state expenditures for FY 2024-25 through FY 2026-27 and increases local expenditures on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$237,810 to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Colorado Youth Advisory Council Committee.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under Bill 4

Table with 5 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2024-25, Out Year FY 2025-26, Out Year FY 2026-27. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts (General Fund Reserve).

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the 12-member Gun Violence Prevention in Schools Task Force in the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The task force is required to study certain issues related to gun violence in schools and submit a final report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2026. The task force is limited to a total of 12 meetings through November 2026, which may be conducted remotely. The first meeting must occur in January 2025 and the task force must meet at least once every other month thereafter. The CDPHE must provide administrative support and staff services upon the request of the task force and members of the task force serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The bill also requires local education providers to provide a written secure firearms storage notice to parents or guardians of students at the beginning of each academic year and each month thereafter. Secure firearms storage notices must also be posted on school websites. Local education providers are also required to provide redacted versions of school threat assessments they conduct to the task force starting February 15, 2025, and by the fifteenth of each month thereafter.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDPHE by \$245,044 in FY 2024-25, by \$49,992 in FY 2025-26, and by \$47,292 in FY 2026-27, paid from the General Fund. Workload will also increase in agencies participating on the task force. Expenditures are detailed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under Bill 4**

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
Department of Public Health and Environment			
Personal Services	\$27,928	\$34,910	\$34,910
Operating Expenses	\$512	\$640	\$640
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	-	-
Facilitator Contract ¹	\$200,000	-	-
Participant Reimbursement	\$2,700	\$5,400	\$2,700
Centrally Appropriated Costs ²	\$7,234	\$9,042	\$9,042
Total Cost	\$245,044	\$49,992	\$47,292
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE

¹ Amount appropriated in FY 2024-25 may be spent over three years.

² Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Department of Public Health and Environment. CDPHE will have facilitator and staffing costs to support the task force, as outlined below.

- **Staff.** The CDPHE requires 0.5 FTE to administer the task force, provide the task force with reports, initiate any data sharing agreements needed, and contract with and manage the facilitator. Costs are prorated for a September 2024 start date and include standard operating and capital outlay costs.
- **Facilitator contract.** The CDPHE requires one-time funding to contract for a task force facilitator. The facilitator is needed for managing the operation of the task force, providing expertise needed to evaluate collected data, assisting with recommendations, and creating the final report to the legislature. The contract amount will cover costs for the duration of the task force, assuming the CDPHE is given appropriation authority to spend this amount over multiple fiscal years. The estimated cost is based on the appropriation for a contract for the Family Planning Access Collaborative.
- **Participant reimbursement.** Costs in the CDPHE will increase to reimburse task force participants for any necessary expenses incurred during participation. The fiscal note assumes a reimbursement rate of \$25 per hour, assuming meetings last three hours, and all 12 members claim reimbursement for all 12 meetings. The fiscal note assumes there will be 3 meetings in FY 2024-25, 6 meetings in FY 2025-26, and 3 meetings in FY 2026-27.

Other state agency participation. The task force has members from the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), the State Board of Education, and the Department of Law (DOL). Workload may minimally increase in these departments to cover duties assigned to employees who serve.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

School District

The bill increases school district expenditures to provide the written secure firearms storage notices and redacted school threat assessments required by the bill. This fiscal note assumes that the expenditure impact from the notices will be minimal based on the existing volume of communications from school districts to parents and guardians. Workload will increase to provide redacted copies of any threat assessments conducted by school districts.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$237,810 to the CDPHE, and 0.4 FTE. In addition, \$200,000 of that amount will require roll-forward spending authority through FY 2026-27 to make payments to the facilitator.

State and Local Government Contacts

Behavioral Health Administration
Public Health and Environment

Education

Law