



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Summary

Date: March 19, 2024 **Fiscal Analyst:** John Armstrong (303-866-6289)

LCS TITLE: PARENTAL CONSENT FOR HEALTH CARE TREATMENT OF A CHILD

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 208

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State spending. The measure requires that healthcare providers obtain parental consent for any diagnosis, treatment, or intervention unless the parent's medical condition prevents consent from being obtained, directed by a court order, or in the case of a medical emergency. The measure may affect state programs that directly provide medical care, as well as regulatory programs that oversee health care professionals and facilities. Agencies responsible for providing care may require additional staff to ensure that consent is received from parents. Agencies that regulate services and providers, such as the Department of Regulatory Agencies and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, will also have additional workload and costs to adjust policies and program operations, and in some cases to take disciplinary action for noncompliance with the measure.

Local government impact. Similar to the state impacts above, the measure will potentially increase workload and costs for local governments to adjust policies and program operations in accordance with the measure. Local governments and programs that may be affected include school districts, county departments of human services, and law enforcement agencies, among others.

Economic impacts. The economic impacts of the measure are unknown, as they depend on future actions and decisions. If the measure's consent requirements impact delivery of services for children, health and future economic outcomes for those children may change.