



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Initiative 277

Fiscal Summary

Date: April 12, 2024 **Fiscal Analyst:** Kristine McLaughlin (303-866-4776)

LCS TITLE: DAMAGES INVOLVING CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR WRONGFUL DEATH

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 277

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 revenue. To the extent that there are more civil filings with the trial courts related to catastrophic injury or wrongful death, fee revenue to the Judicial Department may increase.

State expenditures. By potentially increasing costs to hospitals involved in catastrophic injury or wrongful death, the measure may increase costs to state agencies that operate health care facilities, including the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, and public institutions of higher education. These agencies may require additional staff and legal services. Additionally, if the measure drives an increase in costs to non-state facilities, state departments that make payments to these facilities, like the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, may have increased services costs. Finally, if the measure results in increased litigation, workload may increase in the Judicial Department.

Local government impact. Similar to the state impacts above, the measure may increase workload and costs for local government agencies that operate or make payments to health care facilities and for any district attorneys involved in resulting court cases.

Economic impacts. The economic impacts of the measure are unknown, as they depend on future actions and decision-making, primarily by patients. If the potential of higher damage awards impacts the delivery of health care services, health and future economic outcomes for patients may change.