



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

SB26-032: PROMOTING IMMUNIZATION ACCESS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Daugherty; Mullica
Rep. Feret; Brown

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Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This analysis is preliminary and will be updated following further review and any additional information received.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill expands access to vaccines by broadening who may administer and prescribe vaccines, authorizing state agencies to rely on guidance from specified medical professional organizations, updating immunization program funding flexibility, and revising liability protections related to vaccine administration and distribution, among other changes.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on a one-time basis:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. Preliminarily, the bill requires an appropriation of \$20,000 to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing for FY 2026-27.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$20,000	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Fund sources for this impact are shown in the table below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$10,000	\$0
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$10,000	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$20,000	\$0
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

This bill updates existing law and adds new provisions concerning vaccines as follows:

- Changes references to the cervical cancer vaccine to the human papilloma virus vaccine, recognizes males in addition to females when referring to its administration to acknowledge that both sexes can receive the vaccine, and permits the Commissioner of Insurance to adopt coverage rules if the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization (ACIP) no longer recommends them.
- Expands the law to allow the State Board of Health's rules and immunization schedule to be used in addition to the ACIP's recommendations for naturopathic medicine practice.
- Add vaccines as a category of drug that pharmacists can independently prescribe, dispense, order, and administer, with the State Board of Pharmacy required to establish rules governing this authority.
- Updates liability provisions related to vaccines required for school entry by allowing compliance with either immunization schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the schedule established by the State Board of Health.
- Authorizes the State Board of Health to adopt and amend rules governing the infant immunization program, including which vaccines are required, after considering recommendations from the ACIP and specified national medical professional organizations. The bill also authorizes the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to rely on immunization guidance from national medical professional organizations in addition to ACIP guidance when establishing and administering immunization requirements, and authorizes the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to purchase vaccines recommended by those bodies, in addition to vaccines recommended by the ACIP.

- Removes a prohibition on the use of state money for infant immunization programs if the state does not receive federal money for the immunization programs.
- Extends the limitation on liability for claims related to the handling, storage, or distribution of vaccines to pharmacies and manufacturers and limits liability to cases involving negligent failure to meet recognized standards of practice. Manufacturer liability limitation provisions are removed from the law for claims brought on or after January 31, 2029.
- Creates the "Adult Immunization Act" and establishes limitations on liability for administration of vaccines to adults, providing immunity from civil liability when vaccines are administered in accordance with State Board of Health schedules, without contraindications and when using generally accepted clinical methods. For claims brought on or before January 30, 2029, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, manufacturers, and providers are not liable for injuries unless the injury results from negligent failure to meet recognized standards of practice; manufacturer liability protections are repealed for claims brought on or after January 31, 2029.

State Expenditures

Preliminarily, the bill is expected to increase state expenditures by at least \$20,000 in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in FY 2026-27 only, split between General Fund and federal funds. It also minimally affects workload and practices in several other state agencies. These impacts are summarized below.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

HCPF will be required to make a one-time computer system update to support pharmacists' independent vaccine prescribing and Medicaid reimbursement for these services. Preliminarily, these costs are estimated to be at least \$20,000, with work to be performed by a contractor. This estimate may be revised after additional information on the scope of work is received from the department's IT vendor.

Additionally, the department may see a minimal utilization increase from pharmacists independently prescribing and administering vaccines. It is assumed that any costs from utilization changes will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Department of Public Health and Environment

The State Board of Health within CDPHE will have increased workload to consider the recommendations of the ACIP and national medical professional organizations when adopting rules addressing which vaccines are administered to infants, as well as when recommending the purchase of vaccines, sending notifications concerning overdue vaccines and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, and when considering equivalent vaccines. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

The bill also permits the CDPHE to use state funding for infant immunization programs if federal money is not received for immunization programs. If this occurs, this will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Department of Regulatory Agencies

The Division of Insurance will have a minimal workload increase to the extent coverage rules are adopted for cervical cancer vaccinations. DORA will perform outreach to Naturopathic Medicine practitioners regarding immunization schedules and guidelines. The State Board of Pharmacy may adopt rules establishing prescriptive authority for vaccines and may perform outreach related to this authority. All DORA impacts can be accomplished within existing resources.

State Employee Health Insurance

State employee health insurance is offered through two carriers, one of which (Kaiser Permanente) is subject to state regulation and would be required to comply with the vaccine requirements in the bill. Any impacts related to vaccine costs are expected to be minimal.

Department of Personnel and Administration

The Office of Administrative Courts may see a small increase in caseload related to potential disciplinary actions involving pharmacists' authority to prescribe and administer vaccines; these costs are absorbable within existing resources.

Judicial Department

The bill modifies liability standards related to vaccine administration, but does not create new causes of actions or court procedures. Any impact on trial court caseloads is expected to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Department of Education

The CDE may perform outreach under the bill related to any changes to school immunization requirements. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$20,000 to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, equally split between General Fund and federal funds.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections	Counties
Early Childhood	Education
Health Care Policy and Financing	Higher Education
Human Services	Judicial
Personnel	Public Health and Environment
Regulatory Agencies	