



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-043: RECORD KEEPING & REG OF SALE OF FIREARM BARREL

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Sullivan
Rep. Froelich; Brown

Fiscal Analyst:

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill establishes requirements for the sale and transfer of firearm barrels.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2026-27:

- Minimal State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload
- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes requirements for the sale and transfer of firearm barrels that are not permanently attached to a firearm, including requiring that:

- Firearm barrels must be sold or transferred in-person by a federally licensed firearm dealer. Violations are an unclassified misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and up to 30 days imprisonment in county jail; second or subsequent violations are punishable as a class 2 misdemeanor.
- A person may only purchase or acquire a firearm barrel from a federally licensed firearm dealer if they are at least 18 years old and not prohibited from owning a firearm. Violations of this provision are punishable as a civil infraction.

Firearms dealers must keep records of firearm barrel sales on a form created by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Records must be kept for at least five years, with dealers who fail to do so subject to disciplinary actions against their state firearms dealer permit. Records must contain certain information, including the date of the sale or transfer and the purchaser's or transferee's name.

Finally, the bill provides exceptions for certain sales or transfers, including those to law enforcement agencies, those that occur in the same transaction as a separate firearm, and sales or transfers during voluntary firearm buyback programs.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. The following section outlines crimes that are comparable to the offenses in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Prior Conviction Data

Unlawful Sale of a Firearm Barrel

This bill creates the new offense of unlawful sale of a firearm barrel, an unclassified misdemeanor. To form an estimate on the prevalence of this new crime, the fiscal note analyzed the existing offense of unlawful transfer or sale without a background check, a class 1 misdemeanor, as a comparable crime. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, one White female has been sentenced and convicted for this existing offense.

Unlawful Possession with Intent to Sell or Transfer

This bill creates the new offense of unlawful possession of a firearm barrel with the intent to sell or transfer, an unclassified misdemeanor. To form an estimate on the prevalence of this new crime, the fiscal note analyzed the existing offense of illegal possession of a weapon, a class 1 misdemeanor, as a comparable crime. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, 730 people have been convicted and sentenced for this existing offense. Of the persons convicted, 647 were male and 83 were female. Demographically, 553 were White, 89 were Black/African American, 55 were Hispanic, 13 were Asian, 10 were American Indian, 9 were classified as "Other," and 1 did not have a race identified.

Unlawful Purchase of a Firearm Barrel

This bill creates the new offense of unlawful purchase of a firearm barrel, a civil infraction. To form an estimate on the prevalence of this new crime, the fiscal note analyzed the existing offense of unlawful purchase of a firearm, a class 4 felony, as a comparable crime. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, 13 persons have been sentenced and convicted for this existing offense. Of the persons convicted, 8 were male and 5 were female. Demographically, 9 were White, 3 were Black/African American, and 1 was Hispanic.

Assumptions

Given the requirements placed on firearms dealers and the potential to lose their state firearms dealer permit, the fiscal note assumes that there will be a minimal number of violations under the bill. Visit the [Fiscal Notes website](#) for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Revenue

Based on the assumptions above, this analysis assumes that there will be a minimal impact on state revenue. Under the bill, criminal fines and court fees, which are subject to TABOR, may increase by a minimal amount.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload in the criminal justice system and other state agencies as discussed below.

Criminal Justice System

Based on the assumptions above, this analysis assumes that there will be a minimal impact on state expenditures for the criminal justice system. Under the bill, workload and costs for the Judicial Department, including the trial courts, Division of Probation, and agencies that provide representation to indigent persons, are assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

Other State Agencies

Workload in the CBI within the Department of Public Safety will minimally increase to develop the form for firearm barrel records. This workload increase is absorbable within existing resources, and no change in appropriations is required. Additionally, workload in the Firearms Dealer Division (FDD) within the Department of Revenue may minimally increase if violations occur and the FDD takes enforcement actions. No change in appropriations is required at this time.

Local Government

Similar to the state, it is expected that any workload or cost increases for district attorneys to prosecute more offenses, or for county jails to imprison more individuals under the bill will be minimal. District attorney offices and county jails are funded by counties.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, and applies to conduct occurring on or after this date.

State and Local Government Contacts

District Attorneys	Public Safety
Judicial	Revenue

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).