



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

SB 26-076: CERTIFICATION & PRACTICE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Lindstedt; Frizell
Rep. Richardson; Stewart R.

Fiscal Analyst:

Colin Gaiser, 303-866-2677
colin.gaiser@coleg.gov

Published for: Senate Business, Labor, & Tech.

Drafting number: LLS 26-0389

Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 6, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill expands the pathways through which individuals may become a certified public accountant in Colorado.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload

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

Under current law, certified public accountants (CPAs) must have a bachelor's degree, complete a professional ethics course, take the CPA examination, and have a year of relevant experience. The bill expands the pathways through which individuals may become eligible for certification as a CPA, including new combinations of bachelor's degrees and work experience, completing a professional ethics course, and taking the CPA examination. The bill clarifies that work experience must represent the skills needed to serve the public at the time of initial certification.

The bill clarifies that an individual CPA who is licensed or certified in good standing in another state or jurisdiction can practice in Colorado without needing to obtain a Colorado certificate, as long as the individual was required to pass the CPA examination and obtain a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The State Board of Accountancy may not require a notice, fee, or other submission as a condition of exercising these privileges.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload in the Department of Regulatory Agencies to conduct outreach, and to update rules and publications. The workload impact is expected to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2027, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial

Regulatory Agencies

Law