



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1133: TRAVELING ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT ENVTL ED PROGRAM

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Duran; Valdez

Fiscal Analyst:

Alexa Kelly, 303-866-3469

alex.kelly@coleg.gov

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Fiscal note status: This initial fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires an individual conducting an environmental education program or animal exhibition to be a credentialed or accredited professional.

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

- 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

Under current law, an animal exhibition or environmental education program must be conducted by an individual qualified to impart such information. The bill requires that these programs be conducted by a professional with accreditation or certification from either the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, or the American Sanctuary Association.

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 offense in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Prior Conviction Data and Assumptions

This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of an unqualified person conducting an environmental education program utilizing certain animals by requiring any entity or individual conducting such programs to obtain a professional environmental education accreditation or certification. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, zero offenders were sentenced and convicted for this offense; therefore, the fiscal note assumes that there will continue to be minimal or no additional criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill. Visit the [Fiscal Notes website](#) for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Revenue and Expenditures

Based on the assumptions above, this analysis assumes there will be a minimal impact on state revenue and expenditures. Under the bill, criminal fines and court fees, which are subject to TABOR, may increase by a minimal amount. Similarly, any increase in workload and costs for the Judicial Department, including the trial courts, Division of Probation, and agencies that provide representation to indigent persons, and to the Department of Corrections, are assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

Local Government

Similar to the state, it is expected that any workload or cost increases for district attorneys to prosecute additional 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 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture	Judicial
Counties	Local Affairs
District Attorneys	Natural Resources
Information Technology	Sheriffs

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](#).