



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-026: WEIGHT FOR VEHICLES WITH CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Prime Sponsors:

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill modifies state requirements for child restraint systems to apply to motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 16,000 pounds.

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, state requirements for child restraint systems apply to motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds. The bill increases this threshold to 16,000 pounds.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain analysis in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, or that either reclassifies or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. This section identifies comparable crimes and discusses assumptions on future conviction rates resulting from the bill.

Prior Conviction Data

This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of violating state law regarding child restraint systems, a class B traffic infraction, by increasing the weight threshold for the definition of motor vehicle. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, 1,831 were convicted and sentenced for this offense. Of the persons convicted, 938 were male, 886 were female, and 7 did not have a gender identified. Demographically, 1,417 were White, 140 were Black/African American, 187 were Hispanic, 15 were Asian, 32 were American Indian, 24 were classified as "Other," and 16 did not have a race identified. The fiscal note assumes that overall infractions will minimally increase as a result of the bill. Visit the [Fiscal Notes website](#) for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Revenue and Expenditures

The fiscal note may increase revenue and workload for trial courts in the Judicial Department if the bill results in more traffic infraction cases. The fiscal note assumes a similar number of cases to current law, and that any revenue or workload increase to the trial courts will be minimal.

Local Government

Similar to the state, any increase in revenue and workload from additional municipal court filings is expected to be minimal.

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

Judicial

Regulatory Agencies

Revenue

Transportation

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](#).