



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 26-1044: MEASURES TO IMPROVE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. English; Joseph

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**Fiscal note status:** This revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Health & Human Services Committee.

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### Summary Information

**Overview.** This bill establishes several requirements intended to improve equity in maternal health.

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

- Minimal State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

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**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**

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This bill establishes several authorizations related to maternal health equity, including allowing for a statewide birthing parent survey, codification of the Maternal Health Task Force, requirements related to physician continuing medical education, and requirements for health facilities to make available a statement of birthing parent's rights.

### **Statewide Birthing Parent Survey**

Under current law, the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is required to develop and implement a multi-year health survey to birthing parents. The bill authorizes the CDPHE to implement an additional standardized survey to Coloradans who have recently given birth.

### **Maternal Health Oversight and Reporting**

The bill codifies the existing [Maternal Health Task Force](#), subject to available grant funding, and requires the CDPHE to ensure that at least one black maternal health advocate serves on the task force.

### **Professional Training Requirements**

The bill requires the State Medical Board in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to include cultural competence and equity in maternal care as part of its existing stakeholder process for continuing medical education (CME) requirements.

### **Statement of a Birthing Parent's Rights**

By January 1, 2027, health facilities must provide birthing parents and their family members with a statement of a birthing parent's rights, with specific inclusions for the statement outlined in the bill.

## **State Expenditures**

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Beginning in FY 2026-27, the bill minimally increases workload in the CDPHE and DORA, as discussed below.

### **Department of Public Health and Environment**

Costs in the CDPHE may increase for the department to develop and distribute a statewide birthing survey to additional individuals. Since this requirement is permissive, the fiscal note has not included costs for this survey. It is assumed that any expenditures incurred to survey additional individuals will be addressed through the annual budget process when the survey scope is defined. Workload will also minimally increase for the department to conduct

rulemaking related to the statement of a birthing parent's rights, which the fiscal note assumes will be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## Department of Regulatory Agencies

Workload in the Division of Professions and Occupations in DORA will minimally increase to conduct limited rulemaking and provide information and outreach to licensees. These activities are absorbable within existing resources and no additional appropriation is required.

## Effective Date

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

## Departmental Difference

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The CDPHE estimates that the bill requires \$16,449 in FY 2026-27 and \$14,902 in FY 2027-28 to conduct rulemaking for health facilities to develop and provide a statement of birthing parent's rights. This assumption is based on ten stakeholder meetings and associated internal work.

The fiscal note assumes that any rulemaking required under the bill is limited in scope and primarily codifies statutory language related to the statement of birthing parent's rights. The bill does not expressly establish new enforcement authority or oversight responsibilities for the department beyond existing facility licensing authority. Under this assumption, any rulemaking activities are expected to be minor and absorbable within existing appropriations.

## State and Local Government Contacts

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Public Health and Environment