



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1103: REPORT CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT & COURTROOM TESTIMONY

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Garcia; Goldstein
Sen. Cutter

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Version: First Revised Note

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Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires local law enforcement agencies, the Colorado State Patrol, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to report to a child advocacy center when a sex offense against a child is alleged. It also expands exceptions for child witness testimony from children under 12 years of age to children under 18 years of age.

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

- 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

When a local law enforcement agency, the Colorado State Patrol, or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation takes a report alleging a sex offense against a child, the bill requires the agency to report the allegation to a child advocacy center within the judicial district where the alleged offense occurred, or another appropriate center within the state, within one week. Agencies must also coordinate with the child advocacy center in requesting a forensic interview for the alleged child victim if the agency deems a forensic interview necessary and appropriate.

Under current law, witnesses under 12 years old may give testimony at a trial in a room other than the courtroom upon a motion by the court or another party if the judge determines that the witness would suffer serious emotional distress or trauma and be unable to communicate if testimony were to be given in the presence of a defendant. The bill applies this provision to any witnesses under 18 years old and requires the court to make findings on the ability of the witness to testify in the courtroom in the presence of the defendant. Current law allows remote testimony in this manner via closed-circuit television, which the bill also defines and expands to include the use of other digital or wireless technologies.

State Expenditures

The bill will minimally increase workload in the Judicial Department and agencies representing indigent offenders to the extent the bill results in longer hearings. The fiscal note assumes the bill will minimally impact the length of hearings. In addition, workload will minimally increase in the Department of Public Safety to follow the procedures established by the bill. The fiscal note assumes that interaction of state law enforcement and investigations of alleged sex offenses against children is limited, therefore no change in appropriations is required.

Local Government

The bill will increase workload for those local law enforcement agencies that do not currently coordinate with child advocacy centers in responding to alleged sex offenses against children.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial

Public Safety

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](#).