



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1323: WILDFIRE RESILIENCY PROHIBITING TAKING OF BEAVERS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Lindsay; Velasco

Sen. Cutter; Kipp

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill prohibits the taking of beavers on public lands and establishes penalties for violations.

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

- State Expenditures
- State Revenue

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a reappropriation of \$19,386 to the Department of Law.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$19,386	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.1 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits the wounding or killing (taking) of a beaver on public lands for recreational or commercial purposes. The Parks and Wildlife Commission may adopt rules to implement the prohibition. Exceptions to the prohibition include taking of a beaver:

- for a purpose other than recreational or commercial; or
- by an enrolled tribal member with the right to hunt under federal law, treaty, or presidential executive order.

Additionally, the bill specifies that an individual found in violation will be subject to fines and surcharges, and incur hunting license suspension points.

Background

Under current law, beavers are classified as [furbearers](#), along with 16 other species of animals. To hunt or trap a beaver, individuals must hold either a furbearer hunting license or a small game hunting license (\$39 for residents; \$105 for nonresidents) with a furbearer harvest permit (\$10 for residents and nonresidents). Individuals with a license may hunt beavers from October 1 through April 30, and there is no limit to how many an individual can take.

In 2025-26, about 660 furbearer licenses and 22,000 furbearer harvest permits were purchased from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). As a state enterprise, the CPW generates over 90 percent of its annual funding from sources other than taxes or the General Fund. The CPW relies primarily on license sales, state park fees, and registration fees to support operations.

State Revenue

License Revenue

CPW in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may see a minimal decrease in license revenue from the sale of furbearer licenses and furbearer harvest permits. It is assumed that most people will continue to buy furbearer licenses, or small game licenses with a furbearer harvest permit, since these licenses provide the ability to hunt a variety of animals. As the CPW is a state enterprise, this revenue is not subject to TABOR.

Fines

Additionally, revenue may increase to CPW from fines collected from violations, which is credited to the Wildlife Cash Fund. It is expected that most individuals will comply with the law, and any revenue from fines will be minimal. The bill also requires a surcharge to be collected when a fine is levied, which is paid to the Offender Identification Fund in the Department of

Public Safety. This increase in revenue is also expected to be minimal, and surcharge revenue is subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CPW in the DNR in FY 2026-27 only by about \$19,000, paid from the Wildlife Cash Fund for legal services. Rulemaking is expected to be contentious and will require about 140 hours, or 0.1 FTE, of legal services for general counsel, rulemaking assistance, and legal representation. Legal services are billed by the Department of Law at a rate of \$138.47 per hour.

CPW will also see an increase in workload to update and reprint educational materials, such as the "Small Game Regulations" and "Living with Beavers" brochures, to reflect the requirements of the bill. These costs can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, and applies to conduct occurring on or after this date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a reappropriation of \$19,386 from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Department of Law, and 0.1 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Law	Public Safety
Natural Resources	Treasury

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](#).