



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1315: ACCURATE DOCUMENTS FOR PAROLE DETERMINATIONS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Soper; Espenosa
Sen. Weissman; Carson

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Department of Corrections to audit a random sample of risk assessments and related documentation for inmates granted parole in 2024 and 2025. It also modifies the definition of criminal justice records to ensure risk assessment reporting is available for public inspection.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on a two-year basis:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$144,144 to the Department of Corrections.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$177,474	\$31,564
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	1.5 FTE	0.3 FTE

Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$144,144	\$24,898
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$33,329	\$6,666
Total Expenditures	\$177,474	\$31,564
Total FTE	1.5 FTE	0.3 FTE

Summary of Legislation

By December 31, 2026, the bill requires the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) to audit a random and statistically significant sample of risk assessments of inmates that received parole between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025. The audit must determine if there was inaccurate or inconsistent information that resulted in inmates receiving a low or very low risk assessment. The bill requires the CDOC to report audit results and corrective actions during its SMART Act hearings through 2029.

Additionally, the bill amends the definition of “criminal justice records” to include risk assessments, and requires the redaction of certain health-related information in a risk assessment prior to the release of a record. Agreements that prohibit the disclosure of information in a risk assessment that is subject to disclosure are void and unenforceable.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDOC by \$177,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$32,000 in FY 2027-28. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Staff

The CDOC requires 1.8 FTE over 12 months to conduct the required audit of assessments. This staffing level assumes that the CDOC will inspect 7 percent of assessments conducted in calendar years 2024 and 2025 that resulted in a low risk finding. According to the CDOC, 5,034 parole release assessments completed during that timeframe resulted in a low risk assessment, resulting in 357 cases for audit. Each case is assumed to require approximately 8 hours to audit. Costs for staff include standard operating and capital outlay costs, as well as additional costs for basic and specialized training that is required for staff of the CDOC.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Corrections

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$124,489	\$24,898
Operating Expenses	\$1,920	\$0
Capital Outlay Costs	\$14,000	\$0
Training Costs	\$3,735	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$33,329	\$6,666
Total Costs	\$177,474	\$31,564
Total FTE	1.5 FTE	0.3 FTE

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in Table 2 above.

Technical Note

Currently, the bill requires a completed audit by December 31, 2026. Since the bill takes effect in August, and staff will not be available until September, this leaves the department with 3 months to complete the audit. Based on the assumption that each case requires at least one day to audit, the department would require one year to complete audits of the statistically significant sample size. The fiscal note shows costs based on the estimated time needed.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$144,144 to the Department of Corrections, and 1.5 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections