



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-187: ESTABLISHING COMMISSION ON MEDICAID

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Amabile; Bridges
Rep. Brown; Taggart

Fiscal Analyst:

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill establishes the Commission on Medicaid in the Legislative Department to assess challenges and opportunities related to the state’s Medicaid program.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas in FY 2026-27 only:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Legislative Department.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$500,000	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.5 FTE	0.0 FTE

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

**Table 1A
 State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$488,143	\$0
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$11,857	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$500,000	\$0
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes the Commission on Medicaid in the Legislative Department to identify, consider, evaluate, and recommend policy changes to implement a sustainable Medicaid program. Between May 13, 2026, and December 11, 2026, the commission must meet between six and twelve times to engage and collaborate with representatives of state agencies, community-based Medicaid specialists, national experts, Medicaid members, health care providers, and other stakeholders.

The commission consists of ten legislators, including members of the Joint Budget Committee, the chairs of the House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees, and members of the minority party. Specific duties of the commission include:

- reviewing the state Medicaid program’s administrative structures and identifying opportunities and challenges;
- analyzing current enrollment, eligibility, services, benefits, payment rates, and other program attributes for efficiency and value;
- exploring Medicaid financing and evaluating federal funding optimization;
- preparing insights and policies regarding impacts of the federal H.R. 1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, on Colorado’s Medicaid program; and
- evaluating the commission’s proposed recommendations on member access to care, quality of care, and health equity.

By December 11, 2026, the commission must submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor outlining the commission’s process, recommendations, and stakeholder input. The commission repeals on June 30, 2027. The Director of Research for the Legislative Council must identify and contract with a technical advisor to facilitate the commission and write the report, with further support from the Legislative Council Staff.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Legislative Department by an estimated \$500,000 in FY 2026-27 only. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally increases workload in several other state agencies.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Legislative Department

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$36,758	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$640	\$0
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,000	\$0
Contractor Costs	up to \$415,431	\$0
Per Diem Meeting Costs	\$28,314	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$11,857	\$0
Total Costs	\$500,000	\$0
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.0 FTE

Legislative Department

In the current FY 2025-26, workload in the Legislative Department will increase to set up the commission, appoint commission members, and hire a facilitating contractor, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations. In FY 2026-27 only, expenditures will increase for staff, contractor, and per diem meeting costs, as outlined in more detail below.

Staff

The Legislative Council Staff requires 0.5 FTE Research Associate to support the commission and contractor with meetings, communication, research, and recommendations. Staff costs and FTE begin July 1, 2026, and include standard operating and capital outlay costs.

Contractor

Contractor costs will increase by approximately \$415,000 to hire a technical advisor to assist the commission and create a report for the General Assembly based on findings and recommendations. Actual contractor costs will be determined through the procurement process.

Per Diem Meeting Costs

Expenditures will increase by about \$28,000 for ten legislative members to serve on the commission and incur per diem and travel expense costs that occur during the legislative interim. The fiscal note assumes that the commission will meet twelve times between July 2026 and December 2026.

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.

Other State Agencies

Workload will minimally increase in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Behavioral Health Administration, the Department of Human Services, the Governor's Office, and any other state agency invited to collaborate with the commission. This work may include presenting information to the commission, providing requested data and information, and supporting study insights and recommendations, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 to the Legislative Department, and 0.5 FTE. On January 1, 2027, any unexpended and unencumbered money appropriated for the commission reverts to the General Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Council Staff

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](#).