



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0780	Date:	January 19, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Sullivan Rep. Froelich	Bill Status:	Senate Judiciary
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Bill Topic: **CBI AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE FIREARMS CRIMES**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill authorizes the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to investigate illegal firearm activity statewide and makes an appropriation for these investigations. Starting in FY 2024-25, the bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill currently includes an appropriation of \$1.69 million to the Department of Public Safety. See Technical Note.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-003

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$1,690,258	\$1,638,963
	Total FTE	10.1 FTE	11.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$253,539	\$245,844

Summary of Legislation

The bill authorizes the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) within the Department of Public Safety (CDPS) to investigate illegal activity involving firearms on a statewide basis. Illegal activity involving firearms includes investigating illegal firearm transfers and attempts to illegally obtain firearms. The bill also provides \$1.7 million in General Fund funding to the CBI for investigating illegal firearm transfers.

State Expenditures

The bill increases expenditures in the CDPS by \$1.69 million in FY 2024-25, and by \$1.64 million in FY 2025-26 and beyond, paid from the General Fund. The bill may increase workload and costs for other state agencies involved in the criminal justice system. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 24-003**

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Department of Public Safety		
Personal Services	\$1,079,356	\$1,172,724
Operating Expenses	\$59,635	\$60,850
Capital Outlay	\$168,716	-
Travel Expenses	\$122,717	\$122,717
Employee Insurance and Supplemental Retirement	\$213,131	\$231,522
Leased Space	\$46,703	\$51,150
Total Cost	\$1,690,258	\$1,638,963
Total FTE	10.1 FTE	11.0 FTE

Personal services. With the funding provided by the bill, the CBI will hire 11.0 FTE to investigate illegal firearm activity statewide. This includes seven CBI field agents, and additional forensic and administrative support staff. Salary amounts are above the midpoint range to recruit and retain qualified persons for these positions. FY 2024-25 amounts are prorated for an August 1, 2024, start date.

Operating expenses Operating expenses starting in FY 2024-25 are required for FTE, including desk phones, software, and office supplies. Field agents also require funding for annual training at \$5,000 per agent. Additionally, annual forensic services training and accreditation is required for 2.0 FTE at \$5,500 each.

Capital outlay. One-time funding in FY 2024-25 only is required for computers and office furniture for 4.0 FTE, and to equip 7.0 FTE as CBI field agents. Agent packages include radios, safety equipment, firearms, computers, and vehicle equipment. Each package costs about \$20,000.

Travel expenses. Field agents also require travel expenses, including out-of-state conference travel at \$5,000 per agent, annual vehicle leases at \$7,991 per agent, and fleet vehicle mileage costs estimated at \$4,540 per vehicle.

Employee insurance and supplemental retirement. The bill provides funding for employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments for the CDPS. Pursuant to fiscal notes and Joint Budget Committee policies, these costs are usually centrally appropriated for bills with less than 20 FTE; however, the bill includes these costs in its appropriation.

Leased space. Ongoing funding starting in FY 2024-25 is required for leased space costs for each FTE estimated at \$4,650 per FTE.

Other state agencies. To the extent additional agents increase criminal firearm cases filed, workload and costs to state criminal justice agencies, such as the Judicial Department, the Department of Law, independent judicial agencies that represent indigent offenders, and the Department of Corrections will increase. This increase is expected to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Local Government

Similar to the state, to the extent the new unit generates additional criminal cases that are assisted by local law enforcement, prosecuted by district attorneys, and sentenced to county jails, costs will increase for these local agencies.

Technical Note

The appropriation in the introduced bill is based on cost assumptions that differ from fiscal notes common policies. For informational purposes, if fiscal notes common policies were applied, and assuming midpoint salaries and a July 1, 2024, start date, the bill would require a General Fund appropriation preliminarily estimated at \$1,472,073 and 11.0 FTE to the Department of Public Safety, with centrally appropriated costs of \$299,865, for a total cost of \$1.77 million in FY 2024-25.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$1,690,258, and 10.1 FTE to the Department of Public Safety.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial

Law

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](#).