



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1183: COLORIMETRIC FIELD DRUG TEST WORKING GROUP

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Gilchrist; Bacon

Sen. Ball; Daugherty

Fiscal Analyst:

Aaron Carpenter, 303-866-4918

aaron.carpenter@coleg.gov

Published for: House Appropriations

Drafting number: LLS 25-0371

Version: First Revised Note

Date: March 27, 2025

Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Judiciary Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill creates a working group to study colorimetric field drug tests.

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

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$31,529 to the Legislative Department.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$39,430	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.4 FTE	0.0 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these costs are shown in the table below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$31,529	\$0
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$7,901	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$39,430	\$0
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Colorimetric Field Drug Test Working Group in the Legislative Department to make findings and recommendations concerning the use of colorimetric field drug tests in the criminal proceedings and carceral settings. The working group consists of three legislative members, six representatives from state agencies, and seven representatives from nonprofits, advocacy groups, and individuals involved in criminal justice. The working group must begin meeting in July 2025 and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The bill requires the group to meet three times virtually. Finally, the bill requires Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to provide support to the working group.

Background

A colorimetric field drug test is a presumptive test that uses a chemical reagent which changes color depending on what substances are present in the sample.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Legislative Department by \$39,430 in FY 2025-26 only. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects workload in agencies involved in the working group.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Legislative Department

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$30,521	\$0
Member Per-Diem	\$1,008	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$7,901	\$0
Total Costs	\$39,430	\$0
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.0 FTE

Legislative Department

The department will have staff and reimbursement costs in FY 2025-26 to implement the bill.

Legislative Council Staff

In FY 2025-26 only, Legislative Council Staff requires 0.3 FTE to support the working group in monthly meetings, as required by the bill. This level of staffing is similar to what is required to support an interim committee.

Office of Legislative Legal Services

In FY 2025-26 only, Legislative Council Staff requires 0.1 FTE attorney to support the working group in monthly meetings, as required by the bill. This level of staffing is similar to what is required to support an interim committee.

General Assembly

In FY 2025-26, costs to the General Assembly will increase by \$1,008 for three members to attend three virtual meetings at a \$111.95 per diem rate. Travel reimbursement is not required as meetings will be virtual.

Other Agency Impacts

Workload to the various agencies involved in the working group will increase to participate in the working group. The fiscal note assumes any expenses will be reimbursed by the individual agencies, and that this work and cost can be accomplished within existing resources.

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, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table above.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$31,529, of which:

- \$22,051 is to Legislative Council Staff with 0.3 FTE;
- \$8,470 is to the Office of Legislative Legal Services with 0.1 FTE; and
- \$1,008 is to the General Assembly.

State and Local Government Contacts

Alternate Defense Counsel	Legislative Legal Services
Corrections	Public Defender
District Attorneys	Public Safety
Higher Education	Regulatory Agencies
Law	Sheriffs
Legislative Council Staff	