HB 26-1109

Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1109: SIGN LANGUAGE CONSUMER PROTECTION STUDY

Prime Sponsors:
Rep. Stewart K.; Joseph
Sen. Danielson

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Bill Outcome: Signed into Law
Drafting Number: LLS 26-0417

Version: Final Fiscal Note
Date: July 8, 2026

Fiscal note status: This final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Communication Services for People with Disabilities Enterprise to contract for a study regarding consumer protections for sign language interpreters.

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

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures

Appropriations. No appropriation is required

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue (Cash Funds)	$350,000	$0
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	$0	$350,000
Transferred Funds	$0	$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	$0	$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

By July 1, 2027, the bill requires the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind in the Communication Services for People with Disabilities Enterprise (the enterprise) to contract for a study regarding consumer protections related to the use of sign language interpreters in the state. The bill lists the requirement of the study, including conducting interviews, collecting qualitative data, and comparing other states' approach to regulating sign language interpretation. The final report must be done by July 1, 2028.

Background

The Communication Services for People with Disabilities Enterprise was created in House Bill 25-1154 and is funded through the Telephone Disability Access Surcharge (which is currently $0.08 per line per month) and the Prepaid Telephone Disability Access Charge (which is currently $0.08 per transaction).

State Revenue

Fee Impact on Phone Lines

In FY 2026-27 only, the bill increases state fee revenue to the Colorado Division of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Cash Fund to cover the estimated costs of the study. Legislative Council Staff is required to estimate the fee impact of bills that create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. These fee amounts are estimates only, actual fees will be set administratively by the enterprise and the Department of Regulatory Agencies based on cash fund balance, program costs, and the number of phones subject to the fee. The table below identifies the fee impact of this bill. This fee is not subject to TABOR.

Table 2A
Fee Impact on Phone Lines
FY 2026-27

Type of Fee	Monthly Fee Increase	Number Affected	Number of Months	Total Fee Impact
TDA Charge	$0.004	6,874,435	12	$315,753
Prepaid TDA Charge	$0.004	745,613	12	$34,247
Total Fee Revenue				**$350,000**

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

State Expenditures

In FY 2027-28 only, the bill increases state expenditures from the Colorado Division of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Cash Fund by an estimated $350,000 to conduct the required study. This amount is based similar projects that include both qualitative and quantitative methods and necessitate additional language access requirements.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 2, 2026, and takes effect on August 12, 2026, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services

Regulatory Agencies