



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0654
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Luck

Date: April 25, 2023
Bill Status: House State Affairs
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Bill Topic: **GENERAL ASSEMBLY BILL LIMITATIONS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill creates a two-year cycle for legislative sessions and places limits on the type, timing, and number of bills introduced in a legislative session. The bill increases ballot costs in FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

The concurrent resolution creates a two-year cycle for legislative sessions of the General Assembly and limits the types of bills that may be introduced. The cycle includes the first regular session after a general election devoted to passing a biennial budget, and a second regular session the following year to address general legislation.

Budget legislative session. During a budget session, only a biennial general appropriations act and supplemental appropriations bills or orbital budget bills may be introduced, with a few exceptions for bills to postpone expiration dates or to address emergencies. For the budget session, the executive and judicial branches submit two budget requests; one request must identify the least critical ten percent of expenditures in the department's budget, and the other must be at least five percent less than the department's appropriations for the current year. Once every four budget cycles, a department is required to use a zero-based budget method to create its budget, based on a schedule developed by the legislature, and the zero-based budget will replace the two versions of the budget request.

Each budget request is reviewed by a joint reference committee which prepares a proposed budget for the applicable department. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) must reconcile the various department budgets and reference committee reports to prepare the final biennial Long Bill for introduction.

General legislative session. The resolution limits the number of bills that may be introduced during a general session. Each senator or representative may only introduce up to five bills, which may be on any topic, provided that 90 days prior to the session, the bill is identified by subject on the general assembly's website and 30 days prior to the session, the first or most recent draft of the bill is published on the website. Interim committee bills are excluded from the five-bill limit.

State Expenditures

Legislative Department. The bill will affect the types of bills and amount of work performed in the two sessions under the new legislative cycle. However, given that there are many fixed costs associated with convening the General Assembly, including member salary and per diem, aide and intern pay, and pay for partisan, nonpartisan, and session-only staff, any overall change in costs is assumed to be minimal and will be adjusted through the annual budget process as needed.

Election expenditure impact — existing appropriations. This bill includes a referred measure that will appear before voters at the November 2024 general election. While no additional appropriation is required, certain election costs are incurred by the state when ballot measures are referred. These include reimbursing counties for certain election costs; publishing the text and title of the measure in newspapers across the state; and preparing and mailing the ballot information booklet.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2024 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

All Legislative Service Agencies