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Revised Fiscal Note

(replaces fiscal note dated January 10, 2024)

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0361	Date:	January 29, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Roberts; Will Rep. McLachlan; Catlin	Bill Status:	Senate Appropriations
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Bill Topic: **AG & NATURAL RESOURCES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT**

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

The bill requires certain commission and board members to hold semi-annual public meetings with their constituents. It increases state expenditures beginning in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$10,504 to the Department of Natural Resources.

Fiscal Note Status: This revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The bill was recommended by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-026

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$10,504	\$18,632
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts		-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Governor-appointed members of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the Colorado Agricultural Commission to participate in two public meetings each year. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Agriculture (CDA) must track and report the meetings of board members and commissioners, and reimburse members for reasonable costs to conduct public meetings.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of Natural Resources by about \$11,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$19,000 in FY 2025-26 and future years, paid from the Wildlife Cash Fund and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund. It also increases workload in the Department of Agriculture. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 24-026

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Department of Natural Resources		
Travel Costs	\$9,504	\$16,632
Meeting Expenses	\$1,000	\$2,000
Total	\$10,504	\$18,632

Department of Natural Resources. The Parks and Wildlife Commission includes 11 members who are subject to the new public meeting requirements. Travel costs include hotel, mileage, and per diem for commissioners and the DNR staff who support the public meetings. Meeting expenses include room rental, refreshments, and other meeting materials. The estimates in Table 2 assume some meetings will coincide with other commission activities and that about half of remaining meetings will be conducted virtually, resulting in some cost savings.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board includes nine members representing the state's nine basin roundtables. Although these board members are subject to the public meeting requirements, the fiscal note assumes that these meetings will coincide with regularly scheduled basin roundtable meetings and no change in appropriation is required.

The bill increases workload for DNR staff to coordinate and participate in meetings; this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Expenses are paid from the cash funds, with 65 percent coming from the Wildlife Cash Fund and 35 percent from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund.

Department of Agriculture. The Colorado Agriculture Commission includes five at-large members and four district representatives who are subject to the new public meeting requirements. Workload will increase to schedule and organize meetings, which will all be conducted virtually. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

- For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$10,504 to the Department of Natural Resources, including \$6,828 from the Wildlife Cash Fund and \$3,676 from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture

Natural Resources

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: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.