



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-062: FAILURE TO APPEAR CHARGES IN MUNICIPAL COURT

Prime Sponsors:
Sen. Hinrichsen; Weissman
Rep. Carter; Bird

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Version: Initial Fiscal Note
Date: January 30, 2025

Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill prohibits municipalities from making failure to appear to municipal court a crime.

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

- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits municipal courts from treating failure to appear as a criminal offense and bars municipal judges from imposing jail sentences in these cases. Home rule cities cannot override these restrictions.

It also clarifies that “failure to appear” includes contempt of court for failing to appear, as well as any other term a municipality might use to describe a person’s absence from a scheduled court date.

The bill does not prevent a municipal judge from issuing a bench warrant for failure to appear or from considering such failures when setting bond at a later hearing.

Local Government

Municipalities with charters or ordinances that make failure to appear the basis for a criminal charge will have an increase in workload to update policies. To the extent a municipality formerly sentenced this crime to a jail sentence, jail costs will decrease.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial	Municipalities
Municipal Judge Association	Sheriffs

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](#).