



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-064: SAFE2TELL HANDLE WITH CARE NOTICE

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Marchman
Rep. Clifford

Fiscal Analyst:

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, and is being revised to include additional information.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Safe2Tell program to provide a handle-with-care notice to a school when a student has had a traumatic event at home.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas beginning in FY 2026-27:

- State Expenditures
- Local Government
- School Districts

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

| Type of Impact ¹ | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 | Out Year FY 2027-28 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| State Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| State Expenditures | \$0 | \$113,823 | \$115,590 |
| Transferred Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in State FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.9 FTE | 1.0 FTE |

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

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

| Fund Source | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 | Out Year FY 2027-28 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | \$97,925 | \$97,926 |
| Cash Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Centrally Appropriated | \$0 | \$15,898 | \$17,664 |
| Total Expenditures | \$0 | \$113,823 | \$115,590 |
| Total FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.9 FTE | 1.0 FTE |

Summary of Legislation

Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, the bill requires the [Safe2Tell](#) program in the Department of Law (DOL) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide a handle-with-care notice to a school when an enrolled student has experienced a traumatic event that occurred at the child’s home. Traumatic events include situations such as domestic violence, serious accidents, or abuse and neglect.

Beginning August 1, 2026, a peace officer who responds to an incident involving a traumatic event must report the name and age of the child involved to the Safe2Tell program. Once received, the program must send a handle-with-care notice to the child’s school before the start of the next school day. The notice must only include the child’s name and the phrase “handle with care.”

A school that receives a handle-with-care notice shall only share the notice with appropriate school staff, and is not required to take any specific action with respect to the child or the notification.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by about \$114,000 in FY 2026-27, \$116,000 in FY 2027-28, and a similar amount ongoing. New expenditures are in the DPS and the DOL as shown in Table 2 and Table 2A and described in the sections below. Costs are paid from the General Fund.

**Table 2
State Expenditures
All Departments**

| Department | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 | Out Year FY 2027-28 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Department of Public Safety | \$0 | \$74,451 | \$75,312 |
| Department of Law | \$0 | \$39,372 | \$40,278 |
| Total Costs | \$0 | \$113,823 | \$115,590 |

Department of Public Safety

The Safe2Tell program’s call center resides in the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CAIC) in the DPS. Based on data collected from a pilot handle-with-care program in Douglas and Summit Counties, the CAIC is projected to initially receive approximately 3,360 system interactions annually requiring a handle-with-care notification. Once the program is fully implemented, data suggests that total handle-with-care notifications could increase to over 10,000 annually.

For each occurrence, an analyst must process the notification and document follow-up confirmation, and notice completion. In some cases, this includes research to identify the student’s district or school, especially if a student is enrolled in a private school. The CAIC will add 1.0 FTE Analyst II beginning in FY 2026-27 to process the additional call center workload. This expense is prorated for an August 1, 2026, start date, and includes standard operating and capital outlay.

**Table 2A
State Expenditures
Department of Public Safety**

| Cost Component | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 | Out Year FY 2027-28 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Personal Services | \$0 | \$50,731 | \$56,368 |
| Operating Expenses | \$0 | \$1,152 | \$1,280 |
| Capital Outlay Costs | \$0 | \$6,670 | \$0 |
| Centrally Appropriated Costs | \$0 | \$15,898 | \$17,664 |
| Total Costs | \$0 | \$74,451 | \$75,312 |
| Total FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.9 FTE | 1.0 FTE |

Department of Law

The DOL will have information technology costs beginning FY 2026-27 to purchase an annual subscription for a software plug-in that allows the Safe2Tell system to process handle-with-care notifications, as shown in Table 2. The software costs are expected to adjust annually based on inflation. The FY 2027-28 estimate assumes an inflation rate of 2.3 percent.

Local Governments and School Districts

Local law enforcement will have an increased effort when responding to incidents involving an adverse childhood experience and must report the name and age of the child involved to Safe2Tell. Once the notification is received by the state, local schools and school districts will get a notification that the enrolled student has experienced a traumatic childhood event, and can plan additional supports where necessary.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Law

Public Safety

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](#).