



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1155: MODIFY CANDIDATE AUTHORITY ELECTION WATCHERS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Bradfield; Espenosa

Sen. Pelton; Danielson

Fiscal Analyst:

Hamza Syed, 303-866-4976

hamza.syed@coleg.gov

Bill Outcome: Signed into Law

Drafting number: LLS 25-0552

Version: Final Fiscal Note

Date: October 8, 2025

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows candidates to select election watchers for general and congressional vacancy elections, and for recounts for certain offices.

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

- State Expenditures
- 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

Under current law, a candidate affiliated with a political party may only designate watchers for the primary election. This bill allows candidates to select watchers for general and congressional vacancy elections, and for any recount for the office of United States senator, representative in congress, and any state office or district office of state concern. These watchers will be in addition to all other election watchers.

Local Government

This bill will likely result in more watchers that counties must accommodate during general elections, increasing workload and costs for county clerks. This increase in watchers will occur because multiple candidates can select watchers at covered elections.

State Expenditures

The state reimburses counties for a portion of their costs to conduct elections. To the extent accommodating additional watchers increases reimbursable county expenses, state expenditures, paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, will increase under the bill. In addition, the Secretary of State will be required to adopt rules and guidance for county clerks regarding the appointment of watchers.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 26, 2025, and took effect on August 6, 2025.

State and Local Government Contacts

County Clerks

Department of State