



Fiscal Note
Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-236: CONSOLIDATION OF CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES

Prime Sponsors:
Sen. Amabile; Bridges
Rep. Sirota; Taggart

Fiscal Analyst:
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Bill Outcome: Signed into Law
Drafting number: LLS 25-0987

Version: Final Fiscal Note
Date: August 13, 2025

Fiscal note status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill, which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the FY 2025-26 Long Bill budget package.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill consolidates crisis response services by moving the Colorado Crisis Line under the 988 Crisis Hotline Enterprise.

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

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes several appropriations to the Behavioral Health Administration to consolidate hotline services, including a net decrease of \$3.7 million General Fund and net increase of \$3.5 million cash funds. See State Appropriations section.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact ¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	-\$200,000	-\$200,000
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 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
General Fund	-\$3,696,622	-\$3,696,622
Marijuana Tax Cash Fund	-\$367,316	-\$367,316
988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund	\$3,863,938	\$3,863,938
Centrally Appropriated	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	-\$200,000	-\$200,000
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill consolidates the behavioral health crisis response phone line (Colorado Crisis Line) and the 988 Crisis Hotline, which currently operate as separate services under the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Specifically, the bill moves the Colorado Crisis Line under the 988 Crisis Hotline Enterprise.

Background

Colorado operates two crisis hotlines that provide free, 24/7 support by trained professionals. The Colorado Crisis Line (844-493-TALK) was created as a result of [Senate Bill 13-266](#), to respond to and assist individuals who are in a behavioral health emergency. It is funded through a \$3.9 million appropriation, including \$3.5 million in General Fund and \$367,316 from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund.

The 988 Crisis Hotline is a national network of local crisis contact centers designated by Congress in 2020. It is funded by the 988 Crisis Hotline Enterprise and 988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund created by [Senate Bill 21-154](#), which collects a surcharge on all phone lines. The surcharge is currently \$0.07 in 2025 and is continuously appropriated to the BHA.

State Revenue

According to JBC Staff figure setting documents, the 988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund currently has sufficient revenue to cover increased expenditures from the Colorado Crisis Line. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have a revenue impact in the immediate future. However, by increasing expenditures in the 988 Crisis Hotline Enterprise, revenue in future years could increase compared to current law to support the additional expenditures from routing calls to 988 rather than to the Colorado Crisis Line. 988 is currently funded from a surcharge on phone carriers. Because the 988 hotline is a state enterprise, any additional revenue is not subject to the state's TABOR revenue limit.

State Expenditures

On net, the bill decreases expenditures in the BHA by \$200,000 beginning in FY 2025-26, after accounting for a net decrease of \$3.7 million General Fund and net increase of \$3.5 million cash funds when consolidating the programs. The overall decrease in costs after consolidating the hotlines is from eliminating public awareness campaigns from the stand alone crisis line, which can instead be conducted through existing 988 Crisis Hotline resources and campaigns.

As noted above, the bill reduces funding from the General Fund and Marijuana Tax Cash Fund for the Colorado Crisis Line in BHA, and correspondingly increases funding from the 988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund to operate the consolidated hotline. Details on this shift in appropriations is provided in the State Appropriations section below. The fiscal note assumes the 988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund has sufficient revenue to cover these costs, as fee revenue exceeded expenditures by \$8.0 million in FY 2023-24.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on April 28, 2025.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes a reduction of \$4,063,938 to the Behavioral Health Administration, of which \$3,696,622 is from the General Fund and \$367,316 is from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund.

Because the 988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund is continuously appropriated, an appropriation from the cash fund to the Behavioral Health Administration is not required. However, the bill does include an increase of \$3,863,938 from the 988 Crisis Hotline Cash Fund to the BHA for informational purposes.

State and Local Government Contacts

Joint Budget Committee Staff