



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

SB 25-149: LOCAL GOVERNMENT DUTIES EQUESTRIAN PROTECTIONS

Prime Sponsors:

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Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows counties and municipalities to incorporate a variety of elements to city planning to accommodate equestrians.

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

- Minimal State Workload
- 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 allows counties and municipalities to incorporate a variety of elements into city planning to accommodate equestrians, including:

- identifying locations for and maintaining equestrian road crossings;
- installing signs notifying the public of the equestrian crossings and equestrian zones;
- educating the public on the equestrian use of recreational trails and roads; and
- showing existing or proposed equestrian infrastructure in any master plan and publishing a map of the locations.

Counties and municipalities must get permission from the Department of Transportation to construct any equine facilities on a state highway or right-of-way for a state highway.

Guidelines for Roadways in Equestrian Zones

The bill establishes general guidelines for drivers and riders utilizing roads within an equestrian zone. The Department of Revenue is required to include guidelines for sharing the road with equestrians in driver's education curriculum.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. The following section outlines crimes that are comparable to the offense in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Prior Conviction Data and Assumptions

This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of a pedestrian improperly using a highway, a class B traffic infraction, by permitting an individual riding or leading a horse to travel with the direction of traffic. From FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24, 11 individuals have been convicted and sentenced for this offense. Of the persons convicted, 8 were male and 3 were female. Demographically, 6 were White, 3 were Black/African American, 1 was American Indian, and 1 did not have a race identified.

The fiscal note assumes that there will be minimal or no fewer criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill. Because the bill is not expected to have a tangible impact on criminal justice related revenue or expenditures at the state or local levels, these potential impacts are not discussed further in this fiscal note. Visit leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Expenditures

Overall, the impact on state agency workload is expected to be minimal to affected departments, as discussed below.

Department of Transportation

Workload in the Department of Transportation will increase minimally to coordinate with local governments seeking to establish equestrian zone.

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue will see a minimal increase in workload to add equestrian zone provisions to driver's education guidelines.

Local Government

Counties and municipalities will have increased costs to designate and manage equestrian zones and incorporate infrastructure into master plans if they choose to do so.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Revenue
Local Affairs	Sheriffs
Municipalities	Transportation
Police Chiefs	

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](#).