



## Fiscal Summary

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

---

**Measure:** Initiative 69 – PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF A MINOR

**Analyst:** Erin Reynolds, erin.reynolds@coleg.gov, 303-866-4146

**Date:** May 20, 2025

---

## Fiscal Summary of Initiative 69

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at [leg.colorado.gov/bluebook](https://leg.colorado.gov/bluebook). This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

### State Revenue

By moving human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude from a class 2 felony to a class 1 felony, the measure will reduce state revenue from criminal fines and court fees beginning in FY 2026-27, credited to the Fines Collection Cash Fund, various other cash funds in the Judicial Department, and the General Fund. The fine penalty for a class 2 felony ranges from \$5,000 to \$1 million, while there is no fine for a class 1 felony. Additionally, revenue from court related costs, such as probation supervision, drug surcharges, or late fees, will not apply to class 1 felony convictions. Because the courts have the discretion over fine and fee amounts, a precise state revenue reduction cannot be determined. Criminal fine and court fee revenue are subject to TABOR.

### State Expenditures

Based on the current number of class 2 felony convictions for human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, it is assumed that 3 offenders per year will be convicted for a class 1 felony under the measure. This will increase workload in the Judicial Department to hear longer and more complicated cases. It will also increase costs in the Department of Corrections starting in FY 2038-29, when an estimated 3 offenders will begin serving additional time for a life sentence compared to the 11.8 year sentence served on average for a class 2 sex felony. The cost to DOC will depend on future prison operating costs, but will be at least \$75,000 per year assuming the current private prison rate of \$25,000 per offender, less minimal parole savings.

### Local Government

Beginning in FY 2026-27, this measure will increase district attorney workload to prosecute class 1 felony cases.

## Initiative 69

### Economic Impacts

Incarcerating individuals in state prison for longer periods will reduce workforce participation, which may reduce economic activity from labor and spending and may increase government spending on prisons and social welfare programs. To the extent that the initiative decreases criminal activity, those otherwise impacted by crime may experience better economic outcomes.