

Measure: Initiative 46 – PROHIBIT ELECTRIC HEATING INCENTIVES AND GOVERNMENT BANS ON NATURAL GAS

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Fiscal Summary of Initiative 46

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. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State Expenditures

Initiative 46 prohibits the state or local governments from adopting rules or laws that ban the use of natural gas for cooking or heating. The measure increases expenditures and workload for state agencies to revise technical assistance to local governments concerning housing and building codes. The measure may also increase workload and legal services for state agencies implementing the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

The measure also prohibits any requirements that a utility subsidize a customer's electric heat pump or other electric heating device. This may reduce workload in the Colorado Energy Office and the Public Utilities Commission for programs and utility rate filings related to heat pumps.

Local Government

Local governments that currently have or are considering building codes that prohibit certain energy hookups in commercial and residential development will have increased costs to conform the codes with state law, and to modify permitting, inspection, and compliance activities. Costs will decrease for municipal utilities that offer incentives for electric heating.

Economic Impacts

In jurisdictions where certain energy sources have been or would be restricted, this measure may decrease consumption of alternative sources of energy and related goods. If the continued use of an energy source is less expensive than alternatives, consumers may increase their spending or savings elsewhere in the economy.