Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

SB 25-001: COLORADO VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Prime Sponsors:	**Fiscal Analyst:**
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Rep. Bacon; Joseph	kristine.mclaughlin@coleg.gov

Bill Outcome: Signed into Law	**Version:** Final Fiscal Note
Drafting number: LLS 25-0079	**Date:** July 30, 2025

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill establishes the Colorado Voting Rights Act and places voting access related requirements on the Department of State, local entities, and state-funded organizations.

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

- State Expenditures
- State Revenue
- TABOR Refunds
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of $75,432 to the Department of State.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	$0	$0
State Expenditures	$93,509	$160,339
Transferred Funds	$0	$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	$0	$0
Change in State FTE	1.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	$0	$0
Cash Funds	$75,432	$124,184
Federal Funds	$0	$0
Centrally Appropriated	$18,077	$36,155
Total Expenditures	**$93,509**	**$160,339**
Total FTE	**1.0 FTE**	**2.0 FTE**

Summary of Legislation

The bill codifies the right of equal access to the political process for racial, color, and language minority groups, as established in the Federal Voting Rights Act. Cities and counties are responsible for providing equal access and the bill specifies certain ways of conducting elections that are a violation of voting rights. The bill establishes a civil action process for remedying violations.

The bill requires that the Department of State (DOS), with the assistance of the State Demographer in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and entities that administer elections to collect specified election data and make it publically available.

Additionally, the bill:

* adds various health-care facilities to the types of buildings that are required to display election information;

* specifies registration requirements for voters without a recognized post office address on Indian reservations; and,

* applies ballot translation requirements to municipal elections.

State Revenue

Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. Under current law, DOS is authorized to adjust fees so that the revenue generated approximates its direct and indirect costs. The DOS is primarily funded through business filing fees. To cover the costs described in the State Expenditures section below, fees may need to be raised to cover the costs. The fees affected and the actual amount of fee charges will be set administratively by the DOS based on cash fund balance, total program costs, and the estimated number of business activities subject to fees. This revenue is subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of State by about $100,000 in FY 2025-26, and $160,000 in future years. These costs, paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects workload in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Department of Law (DOL), and in state departments that operate or contract with entities that operate select medical facilities.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of State

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	$60,812	$121,624
Operating Expenses	$1,280	$2,560
Capital Outlay Costs	$13,340	$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	$18,077	$36,155
Total Costs	**$93,509**	**$160,339**
Total FTE	**1.0 FTE**	**2.0 FTE**

Staff

DOS requires 2.0 FTE to collect the required information, including geocoded information from municipalities, compile it into an accessible format, and work with the state demographer in analysis. Costs are prorated for a January 2026 start date.

Other Agency Impacts

Workload will increase in the State Demographers Office in the Department of Local Affairs to assist the DOS in collecting the specified election data. The fiscal note assumes that the DOS will provide the necessary election-related geographic data, which will allow this work to be accomplished within existing resources.

Workload will increase in the Department of Law if violations is referred to the Attorney General or any civil actions are filed. The Attorney General will prioritize investigations as necessary within available appropriations.

Workload will minimally increase for state departments that provide or contract with entities that provide state-funded services to people with disabilities to comply with the public posting requirements.

Local Government

Municipal election costs will increase to comply with the ballot translation requirements. These costs will be incurred for stand-alone elections conducted directly by a municipal clerk. These requirements are already in-place for coordinated elections conducted by county clerks, which make up the majority of municipal elections. DOS does not reimburse municipalities for any portion of the costs of non-coordinated elections.

Workload will increase for counties and municipalities to provide information to the election information office. DOS is responsible for providing technological security for the transfer of data.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 12, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of $75,432 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Department of State, and 1.0 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections	Law
Counties	Local Affairs
County Clerks	Municipalities (CML)
Judicial	Secretary of State