



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1188: MANDATORY REPORTER TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Prime Sponsors:

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill makes changes to the requirements for reporting child abuse and neglect.

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

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$5,375 to the Department of Human Services.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	\$5,375	\$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 makes changes to the reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect. The bill specifies that child abuse or neglect must not be based on a parent's or child's indigence, unavailability of accessible services, unhoused status, or disability. It also modifies requirements for mandatory reporters, including:

- requiring reports to be submitted as soon as possible and within 24 hours;
- not requiring reports when information is received outside of a person's professional capacity or when they are connected to an attorney representing the party involved in a child abuse or neglect case;
- removing victim advocates from the list of mandatory reporters;
- prohibiting reports based solely on a family's race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or disability; and
- prohibiting delegation of reporting to someone without firsthand knowledge of the suspected child abuse or neglect.

For entities that employ a mandatory reporter, the bill allows them to develop reporting protocols, as long as they comply with state law and regulations. It also prohibits them from deterring or preventing a person from filing a report.

Finally, county departments of human services must assign referral identification number to each report of child abuse or neglect. This way, if someone notifies a county about an incident that has already been reported and is provided with the referral identification number, they have fulfilled their reporting responsibility. The county department may generate a new report if there is additional information to report.

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 modifies the existing offense of failure to report child abuse by a mandatory reporter by:

- exempting certain situations from mandatory reporting; and
- removing victim's advocate as a mandatory reporter.

From FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24, 4 individuals have been sentenced for this offense. Of those, 1 was male and 3 were female. Demographically, 3 were white and 1 was Asian. Due to the low number of sentences for this offense, the fiscal note assumes that there will be a minimal reduction in criminal case filings and 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

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of Human Services (CDHS) by \$5,375 in FY 2025-26 only. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects workload in the Judicial Department and other state agencies.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Human Services

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Training update	\$5,375	\$0
Total Costs	\$5,375	\$0

Department of Human Services

The CDHS will have a one-time cost of \$5,375 in FY 2025-26 to update existing Child Welfare Training System materials used by county departments to reflect changes to mandatory reporting under the bill. The cost is based on a vendor estimates provided to the Department.

Judicial Department

Limiting the criteria and instances for reporting child abuse may result in fewer dependency and neglect filings. This will decrease workload to the trial courts, Office of the Child's Representative, and the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel. However, it is assumed that only a small number of cases may be affected each year and that any impacts will be minimal.

Other Agency Impacts

Workload for the Department of Regulatory Agencies will increase to conduct outreach on the new requirements to regulated professionals who are mandatory reporters. State agencies may need to update internal policies, but it is estimated that this workload is minimal and can be accommodated within existing resources.

Local Government

Workload will increase for county departments of human services to train and update staff on new mandatory reporting policies and procedures. This workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect September 1, 2025, except that 19-2-304 (2)(w), Section 4, and Section 5 take effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$5,375 to the Department of Human Services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Child Welfare	Human Services
Corrections	Judicial
Counties	Law
District Attorneys	Police Chiefs
Early Childhood	Regulatory Agencies
Education	

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](#).