



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HCR 25-1003: PERSON'S RIGHTS RELATED TO THEIR CHILDREN

Prime Sponsors:

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced resolution.

Summary Information

Overview. This resolution refers a ballot question to the 2026 general election to amend the state constitution that, if approved by voters, expands the definition of "inalienable rights" to include a person's right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children.

Types of impacts. If approved by voters, the measure may affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures
- 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 concurrent resolution refers a ballot measure to voters at the November 2026 election. If approved, the measure expands the definition of “inalienable rights” to include a person’s right to direct the upbringing, education and care of their children.

State Expenditures

As outlined below, the bill will increase state election expenditures to refer a measure to the ballot, paid using existing appropriations. It may also result in future laws passed by the General Assembly or decisions by the courts concerning the upbringing, care and education of children. The impact of any future legislation or court decisions has not been estimated.

Election Expenditures—Existing Appropriations

This resolution includes a referred measure that will appear before voters at the November 2026 general election. While no additional appropriation is required, certain election costs are incurred by the state when ballot measures are referred. These include reimbursing counties for certain election costs; publishing the text and title of the measure in newspapers across the state; and preparing and mailing the ballot information booklet.

Future Impacts concerning the Care and Education of Children

Depending on future legislation, court decisions, and other policy changes in response to this amendment, if adopted, state expenditures regarding children, health care, education, and other areas may change. Workload and costs in the trial courts and appellate courts may also increase if legal questions arise on how to apply or interpret the rights outlined in the measure. It is assumed that any costs will be addressed through future legislation or the annual budget process if necessary.

Local Government

Similar to the state, costs for school districts, counties, and other local governments may change if the amendment is approved by voters. Any potential impacts will depend on future legislation, court decisions, and other policy changes to apply the rights outlined in the measure.

Effective Date

The resolution takes effect upon enactment by the General Assembly. If approved by voters, the referred measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the election results are canvassed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Early Childhood

Human Services

Education

Law