



Fiscal Summary

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Measure: Initiative 197 – DESIGNATE SPORTING GOODS SALES TAX REVENUE FOR CONSERVATION

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Fiscal Summary of Initiative 197

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 Revenue

The measure designates state sales tax revenue collected from sporting goods and equipment sales as wildfire and conservation revenue. Beginning in FY 2027-28, it exempts this revenue from TABOR, and distributes it to a set of cash funds. The measure is expected to exempt and distribute about \$175.9 million per year beginning in FY 2027-28. The amount exempted and distributed may be reduced in years when revenue is below the Referendum C cap or in years beyond FY 2027-28 when exemption of the revenue results in a lower level of availability for certain state income tax credits allowed under current law.

State Expenditures

The measure increases state expenditures for wildfire and conservation programs by \$175.9 million in FY 2027-28 and similar amounts in later years. In years when the state revenue would otherwise exceed the TABOR limit, the measure increases state expenditures on net.

Local Government

The measure increases funding for state wildfire, water, and conservation grants available to local governments.

Economic Impacts

The measure reduces the amount of after-tax income available for taxpayers to spend, save, or invest elsewhere in the economy, and increases the amount of revenue available for state and local government spending on wildfire and conservation programs. Any overall change in economic activity will depend on the net economic impact of changes to after-tax household and business income and the level of investment in public services.