



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1163: FREE ACCESS TO STATE PARKS FOR CO UTE TRIBES

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Stewart K.; Taggart

Sen. Roberts; Simpson

Fiscal Analyst:

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Bill Outcome: Signed into Law

Drafting number: LLS 25-0500

Version: Final Fiscal Note

Date: July 3, 2025

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Ute tribe members to access state parks without having to pay a fee.

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

- State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload

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 (Cash Funds)	-\$39,400	-\$39,400
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 bill allows for enrolled members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to access any Colorado state park without paying an entrance fee. Members of the tribes must present a current tribal identification card with an intact photo.

The bill also requires that by June 1, 2026, Colorado Parks and Wildlife build on existing efforts to engage with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, tribal governments, and American Indian and Indigenous communities on opportunities related to Colorado state parks. The Department of Natural Resources must report on the status of these efforts during its annual SMART Act hearing in January 2026 and 2027.

Assumptions

Based on 2023 population data, the fiscal note assumes that 1,770 passes are purchased annually by members of the state's Ute tribes each year. Park passes range from \$7 to \$74, with the Keep Colorado Wild Pass at \$27 being the most common purchase.

State Revenue and Expenditures

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in the Department of Natural Resources, will incur an ongoing decrease in park entrance fee revenue of approximately \$40,000 beginning in FY 2025-26 from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund. Since Colorado Parks and Wildlife has enterprise status, this revenue change will not have any impact on TABOR refunds.

The department will also incur a minimal increase in workload to implement the new entry regulation, increase engagement with tribal community groups, and report on engagement efforts during its SMART Act hearing. No change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 29, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

Revenue

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](#).