



## Fiscal Summary

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

---

**Measure:** Initiative 88 – PENALTIES FOR THEFT AND MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

**Analyst:** Erin Reynolds, erin.reynolds@coleg.gov, 303-866-4146

**Date:** May 20, 2025

---

## Fiscal Summary of Initiative 88

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 measure is or will be available at [leg.colorado.gov/bluebook](https://leg.colorado.gov/bluebook). This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

### State Revenue

The measure minimally increases state revenue from additional criminal fees and fines resulting from misdemeanor cases in Denver County Court moving to felony cases in state courts starting in FY 2027-28.

### State Expenditures

The measure increases Judicial Department expenditures by an estimated \$0.6 million in FY 2026-27 and \$1.0 million in FY 2027-28 and in future fiscal years to hire additional judges, public defenders, and parole officers to manage additional and longer cases.

In addition, the initiative increases expenditures in the Department of Corrections by an estimated \$2.6 million in FY 2027-28, and by increasing amounts thereafter, assuming 10 percent of those convicted of offenses affected by the measure are sentenced to prison at varying felony levels.

### Local Government

Costs to district attorney offices will increase due to prosecuting longer cases, and costs to county jails will increase to incarcerate additional persons. Revenue and costs to the Denver County Court will decrease from moving certain cases to state court.

### Economic Impacts

Incarcerating additional individuals in state prison will reduce workforce participation, which may reduce economic activity from labor and spending and may increase government spending on prisons and social welfare programs. To the extent that the initiative decreases criminal

## **Initiative 88**

activity or decreases the number of thefts, individuals otherwise affected by such crimes may experience improved economic outcomes.