

### HB 25-1289: METRO DISTRICT LEASES & PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

**Prime Sponsors:** 

Rep. Zokaie; Richardson Sen. Weissman; Frizell

**Bill Outcome:** Signed into Law **Drafting number:** LLS 25-0883

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Fiscal Analyst:** 

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**Version:** Final Fiscal Note **Date:** August 22, 2025

## **Summary Information**

**Overview.** The bill requires metropolitan districts to file additional statements and disclosures when claiming a property tax exemption, which may necessitate referral to a governing body for approval. The bill states that privately owned interests that are leased to a public entity, and then leased back to private persons for private purposes, are taxable.

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

Minimal State Workload

Local Government

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

# Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

	Budget Year	Out Year
Type of Impact	FY 2025-26	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 bill requires metropolitan districts that are a party to a lease or rental agreement that was effective as of January 1, 2025, or later and was filed in support of a claim for a property tax exemption to submit additional statements and disclosures to the county assessor's office. This includes:

- the metropolitan district's use of the leased property;
- the metropolitan district's authority to use the leased property for the district's purposes;
- any use of the leased property by a private person for private purposes; and
- any disclosure filed by the member of the board of directors of the metropolitan district in accordance with certain laws that govern disclosures of conflicts of interest.

For disclosures related to conflicts of interest, the bill requires the county assessor to submit the statement to the governing body that approved the metropolitan district's service plan within 14 days. The governing body is then required to issue a written decision regarding the use of the leased property for a public purpose. If the leased property is not used for a public purpose, then the property is not exempt from property tax. A governing body may include the Board of County Commissioners or other entity that approved the metropolitan district's service plan, or its designees.

Relatedly, the bill clarifies that leasehold interests in privately owned real or personal property that has been leased to the state or political subdivision of the state, and that are leased back to private persons for private purposes, are taxable.

# **State Expenditures**

The bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Local Affairs, Division of Property Taxation to update manuals, brochures, and training materials. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

#### **Local Government**

The bill minimally increases workload for county assessor's offices, metropolitan districts, and relevant governing bodies to file, process, and make determinations regarding the additional statements and disclosures required in the bill.

#### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 3, 2025, and took effect on August 6, 2025.

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## **State and Local Government Contacts**

County Assessors Local Affairs Property Tax Division - Local Affairs Special District Association