



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 25-1294: COURT COSTS ASSESSED TO JUVENILES

**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. Jackson; Joseph  
Sen. Exum

**Fiscal Analyst:**

Aaron Carpenter, 303-866-4918  
aaron.carpenter@coleg.gov

**Published for:** House Judiciary

**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0877

**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note

**Date:** March 12, 2025

**Fiscal note status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill clarifies the definition of juvenile for when a court cannot assess a court costs and makes the current prohibition on charging juveniles fees permanent.

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

- Minimal 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	\$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

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Under current law, certain court-assessed or court-ordered costs cannot be assessed or collected against juveniles who were under 18 years of age when the crime was committed and are under 21 years of age when sentenced (also called youthful offenders). The prohibition also applies to the juvenile's parent, guardian, or legal custodian, or other person who supports the juvenile. This prohibition on assessing these court costs on juveniles is scheduled to repeal on June 30, 2025. This bill makes this prohibition on charging certain court costs on juveniles permanent.

## Background

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In 2021, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 21-1315](#) which required courts to vacate certain court fees assessed or ordered in juvenile cases. According to a [report](#) from the Judicial Department, courts vacated \$2.9 million in court assessed fees and fines associated with these cases as a result to HB 21-1315. This vacated amount represents the total outstanding balance accrued over many years prior to 2021.

## State Revenue

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By continuing the current practice of prohibiting certain fees and fines on juveniles charged as adults, the bill reduces state revenue starting in FY 2025-26 relative to current law where this restriction is scheduled to repeal. The exact amount of court costs that would be assessed on juveniles without the restriction is cannot be estimated as it depends on future decisions by the courts. Given the small number of juveniles charged as adults that enter the youthful offender system each year (about 56 per year), and assuming a relatively low collection rate, any decrease in revenue is expected to be minimal. Revenue from court fees and fines accrues to various cash funds in the Judicial Department and is subject to TABOR.

## State Expenditures

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Workload to the Judicial Department will increase in FY 2025-26 only to update court data systems to automatically identify cases that cannot be assessed court fees and fines. Currently, this information is manually tracked. Once programing is complete, ongoing workload will decrease to no longer have to manually enter in non-enforceable orders. Overall, any workload impact is assumed to be minimal.

## Effective Date

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The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

## State and Local Government Contacts

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District Attorneys

Judicial

Human Services

Revenue

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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](#).