



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

### SB 26-027: PARENTAL EQUALITY & CHILD EMPOWERMENT ACT

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Zamora Wilson

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Published for:** Senate State Affairs**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0570**Date:** January 22, 2026

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

#### Summary Information

**Overview.** This bill establishes a presumption that the court will allocate equal parenting time to both parents.

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

- Minimal State Workload

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
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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This bill establishes a presumption that the court will allocate equal parenting time to both parents when both parents live within 25 miles of a geographic location the court determines to be reasonable. That location may include, but is not limited to, a child care provider, preschool, or school, as determined by the court. Either parent may challenge this presumption by presenting clear and convincing evidence that equal parenting time is not in the best interests of the child. If the court determines that this evidence rebuts the presumption, the court must make a written finding. The parents may agree to a parenting time arrangement that is not equal, which the court may approve if it is in the best interests of the child.

## **State Expenditures**

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Workload at the Judicial Department may increase due to increased hearings when the presumption of equal parenting time is rebutted, and to make written findings. However, courts already follow standard procedures when ordering unequal parenting time and prepare detailed findings in these cases. As a result, hearing length is not expected to increase in most cases, and any additional hearing time is expected to be limited to a small subset of contested cases where the presumption is formally rebutted. Overall, any workload impact for the trial courts is expected to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. It applies to proceedings filed on or after this date.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Counties	Judicial
Human Services	Office of the Child's Representative