



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1009: COLORADO MANDATORY LETHALITY ASSESSMENT ACT

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Duran; Gonzalez R.
Sen. Michaelson Jenet; Pelton B.

Fiscal Analyst:

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Date: January 26, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires peace officers to conduct a lethality assessment when responding to a domestic violence incident, and requires the Attorney General, in coordination with an organization that advocates for survivors of domestic violence, to develop mandatory training for peace officers to administer the lethality assessment and provide victim referrals.

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

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$11,780 to the Department of Public Safety.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$11,780	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Starting July 1, 2027, the bill requires peace officers to conduct a lethality assessment when responding to domestic violence incidents. If the assessment indicates that an individual is a high-risk victim based on the totality of the circumstances, the peace officer must immediately connect the victim to a victim's advocate.

The bill also requires the Attorney General, in coordination with a Colorado-based coalition that advocates for survivors of domestic violence, to develop a mandatory training for peace officers on how to administer the assessment. The training must be available by January 1, 2027, and all peace officers must complete the training by July 1, 2027.

Beginning January 2028, the Attorney General must annually report statistics on the number of domestic violence incidents, assessments conducted, and high-risk victims identified during its SMART Act presentation. By January 31, 2030, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, in the Department of Law, must evaluate the effectiveness of the assessments and referrals and submit the evaluation to relevant legislative committees.

Background

According to the Department of Law, there are about 14,500 peace officers and 330 law enforcement agencies in Colorado.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by an estimated \$12,000 in FY 2026-27 only in the Department of Public Safety as shown in Table 2 and described in the sections below. Costs are paid from the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF). Workload will also increase in the Department of Law and other agencies that hire peace officers.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Public Safety

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
IT Modifications	\$11,780	\$0
Total Costs	\$11,780	\$0

Department of Public Safety

In FY 2026-27 only, costs to the Department of Public Safety will increase by \$11,780 to add fields to Colorado State Patrol (CSP)'s incident reporting documentation as to whether a lethality assessment was conducted, the outcome or risk level, and whether a victim referral was initiated. It is estimated this work will require 40 hours a project manager at a contract rate of \$134 per hour and 60 hours for a business analyst at a rate of \$107 per hour.

The CSP is approaching its statutory limit of Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) funding. The fiscal note assumes the bill's minimal appropriation can come from the HUTF. However, to the extent this bill reduces available HUTF funding, costs to the General Fund may increase if the amount budgeted for the CSP in FY 2026-27 and future years exceeds available funds in the HUTF.

Department of Law

Starting in FY 2026-27, workload in the Department of Law will increase to partner with a Colorado-based coalition that advocates for survivors of domestic violence. The fiscal note assumes that the coalition will take the lead on developing and administering the training. If the Department of Law is expected to develop and administer the training, costs to the department will include curriculum design, trainer training, and materials. The bill does not require the department to reimburse law enforcement agencies for salary backfill. Reporting requirements of the bill, both from the department and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

State Agencies Employing Peace Officers

Workload to state agencies that employ peace officers will increase to facilitate the required officer training and to conduct assessments when necessary. It is assumed that the large majority of domestic violence calls are handled by local law enforcement officials. State agencies with peace officers that may be required to conduct assessments when responding to reports of domestic violence include the Departments of Higher Education, Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Revenue. The fiscal note assumes the bill does not impact probation officers in the Judicial Department.

Local Government

Starting in FY 2026-27, workload and costs to local law enforcement agencies will increase to attend the required training and to make the required assessments outlined in the bill. Workload and costs will include:

- officer backfill or overtime costs to facilitate training;
- developing policies and procedures for conducting assessments;
- officer time completing assessments, reporting required information, and connecting high-risk victims with victim advocates; and
- form and system updates.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires appropriation of \$11,780 from the Highway Users Tax Fund to the Department of Public Safety, to be fully reappropriated to the Office of Information Technology.

Departmental Difference

Department of Law

The Department of Law estimates the bill will cost \$2.5 million in FY 2026-27 and \$490,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing to develop the training the program, reimburse the cost of peace officers to attend the training, and to backfill positions for small law enforcement agencies to maintain officers on patrol while others receive training. The fiscal note does not include these costs because it assumes that the coalition, not the Department of Law, will develop and administer the training and because the bill does not require reimbursements to law enforcement agencies.

If the department is required to develop and administer the training, costs are estimated at \$320,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$58,000 ongoing.

Judicial Department

The Judicial Department estimates the bill will cost \$165,000 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2026-27 and \$70,000 and 0.6 FTE in FY 2027-28 and ongoing. This assumes that an additional 0.5 FTE probation officer will be required to conduct assessments, and 0.3 FTE educational specialist will provide the training initially, reducing to 0.1 FTE in the outyear. The fiscal note does not include this staff as it is assumed that probation officers will not be responding to domestic violence calls and the coalition will provide the training.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety indicates that IT modifications should be paid from the General Fund, due to the statutory limit of Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF); however, the fiscal note assumes the bill's minimal appropriation can come from the HUTF.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial

Public Safety

Law