



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

SB 26-024: STATE & LOCAL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT REGULATION

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Liston; Michaelson Jenet
Rep. Soper

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Published for: Senate Local Govt. & Housing**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0513**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** January 26, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill clarifies the regulatory authority of the state and local governments over unmanned aircraft systems.

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

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

The bill creates the “Unmanned Aircraft Systems Rights and Authorities Act,” which clarifies the regulatory authority of the state and local governments over unmanned aircraft systems (drones). The bill prohibits the state and local governments from requiring that individuals register a drone, other than what is mandated in federal law. State and local governments are authorized to regulate drones used by or for their agencies, as well as drones launching from or landing on state or local government property.

Background

LCS has prepared an Issue Brief on [Drone Use and Regulation in the Public Sector](#).

State Expenditures

Workload may increase for state agencies to review existing or develop new regulations regarding use of drones. Because state agencies currently operate drones in compliance with state and federal laws, and existing regulations limiting drone use on state property do not conflict with the bill, any impact is expected to be minimal.

Local Government

Legal and administrative costs may increase for certain local governments to review, amend, or repeal existing regulations regarding drone use systems that are not compatible with the bill.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed, and applies to acts, ordinances, resolutions, and rules made on or after the effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Public Health and Environment
Local Affairs	Public Safety
Municipalities	Transportation
Natural Resources	