



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-147: LOBBYIST REGULATION

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Cutter; Pelton R.
Rep. Johnson; Froelich

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill modifies lobbyist registration and disclosure requirements for both private and state agency lobbyists.

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

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$91,000 to the Department of State.

**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)	\$91,000	\$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 modifies registration and disclosure requirements for private and state agency lobbyists.

Private Lobbyist

Under current law, a lobbyist may be either a professional lobbyist or a volunteer lobbyist. A professional lobbyist must register with and submit monthly disclosure statement to the Department of State (DOS), but the DOS may waive any fee for not-for-profit organizations.

The bill exempts the employees of clients who are assisting a professional lobbyist from registration and disclosure requirements and requires volunteer lobbyists to attest to the General Assembly that they are not being paid.

State Agency Lobbyists

Under current law, legislative liaisons for executive state departments are subject to distinct registration and disclosure requirements. Each principal executive branch agency must designate a legislative liaison, who must register with the DOS and disclose monthly any expenditure of public funds used for lobbying, and an estimate of the time spent on or preparing for lobbying elected officials. The bill requires that liaisons also disclose the agency position on legislation they lobby for, against, or amend, and to update that disclosure within 72 hours of any change.

Under current law, only the principal executive branch agencies and institutions of higher education are subject to these registration and disclosure requirements. This bill adds judicial branch agencies, and the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's offices to the agencies that are required to designate and register lobbyists, and make monthly disclosures of lobbying activity and positions.

Additionally, the bill prohibits former statewide elected officials and members of the General Assembly from serving as a legislative liaison for two years after leaving office.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of State by \$91,000 in FY 2026-27 only. These costs are paid from the Department of State Cash Fund and summarized below. The bill also affects workload in all executive branch agencies, the Judicial Department, and in the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. These impacts are discussed below.

Department of State

In FY 2026-27 only, DOS will have \$91,000 in computer programming costs to update its lobbyist registration and reporting system. These updates will require about 700 hours of developer time. The costs are paid from the Department of State Cash Fund. Workload in DOS will also increase to address complaints regarding compliance and to enforce the requirements of the bill. Since DOS already enforces lobbyist requirements, this impact is expected to be minimal.

Legislative Department

The bill minimally impacts the Legislative Department. Workload will minimally increase to receive attestations from volunteer lobbyists and update information and resources for lobbyists. These impacts are minimal and no change to appropriations is required.

Judicial Branch, Governor's Office, and Board of Higher Education

Workload will minimally increase for lobbyists from the Judicial Branch, Governor's office, and institutions and governing boards of higher education to meet the additional registration and disclosure requirements currently placed on state departments. This estimate assumes that the required estimate of the time spent on or preparing for lobbying can be an estimate of time spent on these activities and does not require a detail time-logging or tracking system.

All State Departments

Workload will minimally increase for all state departments to disclose their position on any legislation they lobby on and update that position within 72 hours of any change.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$91,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Department of State.

Departmental Difference

The Governor’s Office estimates that the bill requires \$369,516 in FY 2026-27 and \$275,616 in future years. This includes programming costs and 2.3 FTE. The Governor Office estimate assumes that the office will require a new time tracking system and that all of the Governor’s staff are required to track any time spent on legislation. The fiscal note assumes that precise hour tracking is not required, and that only individuals directly engaged in lobbying elected officials are required to track lobbying efforts, not support staff, or other employees of an agency that do not directly engage in lobbying.

State and Local Government Contacts

Administrative Services for Independent Agencies	Judicial
Alternate Defense Counsel	Legislative Council Staff
Bridges	Office of Public Guardianship
Commission On Judicial Discipline	Office of the Child's Representative
Governor	Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman
Higher Education	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel
Independent Ethics Commission	Public Defender
Judicial	Secretary of State

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](#).