



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

### SB 26-156: CHANGE PRACTICES OF WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Kipp; Carson  
Rep. Phillips; Gonzalez R.

**Fiscal Analyst:**

Anna Gerstle, 303-866-4375  
anna.gerstle@coleg.gov

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**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note  
**Date:** April 20, 2026

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

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill updates laws related to the Colorado Workforce Development Council.

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

- State Expenditures
- School Districts

**Appropriations.** For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a \$46,605 reduction in appropriations to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	-\$46,605	-\$46,605
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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The bill makes changes to the practices of the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) in the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Specifically, the bill:

- updates the legislative declaration and duties related to growing industries, in-demand occupations, and career pathway development;
- requires that the CWDC and other relevant state agencies identify in-demand and high-wage occupations that are eligible for federal support;
- removes the requirement that relevant state agencies develop two career pathways per academic year, and replaces it with a requirement to update or design pathways by the start of each academic year;
- clarifies options for academic institutions that design or update career pathways;
- modifies the requirements for the annual Colorado Talent Report;
- modifies duties for the statewide postsecondary workforce readiness coordinator in CDLE; and
- makes technical updates to CWDC statutes.

## Background

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CWDC is required to coordinate with the Department of Higher Education (CDHE), the Department of Education (CDE), and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) for many of its duties.

## State Expenditures

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The bill reduces state expenditures in CDLE by \$46,605 per year, beginning in FY 2026-27. The reduction is from the General Fund. The reduction is from a decrease in contract IT costs, as the bill eliminates the requirement for CDLE to maintain microsites, and lowers travel costs for the workforce development coordinator due to streamlining of career pathway requirements and postsecondary workforce duties.

In addition, the bill minimally impacts workload for CDHE, CDE, OEDIT to modify their duties to align with the bill's requirements. Institutions of higher education that participate in the development of career pathways and industry workforce reporting will also have minimal workload impacts. No change in appropriations is required.

## **School Districts**

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State agencies coordinate with school districts related to development and implementation of postsecondary workforce development programs and career pathways. Updates to these processes may minimally impact workload for school districts that participate in this work.

## **Effective Date**

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

## **State Appropriations**

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For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a \$46,605 reduction in General Fund appropriations to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Education	Labor
Higher Education	Office of Economic Development
Information Technology	