



Fiscal Impact Statement

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

INITIATIVE 251: CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Analyst: Hamza Syed, hamza.syed@coleg.gov, 303-866-4976

Date: May 14, 2026

Summary Information

Overview. The measure requires the independent redistricting commission to review any changes to the final submitted map.

Types of impacts. The measure is projected to affect the following areas:

- State Expenditures

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available. Any appropriations required to implement this measure will be addressed through the annual or supplemental budget process if this measure is approved by voters.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact¹	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Impact Year
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$367,603
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	1.0 FTE

Summary of Measure

Under current law, the independent redistricting commission meets every 10 years to create a map for statewide and federal voting districts. If the final map is modified for the 2028 congressional election or thereafter, this measure requires that the redistricting commission reconvene to review the changes, and that any changed map must be adopted by the Colorado Supreme Court. The court may not approve a map that fails to preserve whole communities of interest, or that was drawn to favor one political party.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by about \$370,000 in any fiscal year where the commission has to meet to review changes to the maps. These costs will be incurred in the Legislative Department as shown in Table 2 and described in the sections below. Costs are paid from the Legislative Department Cash Fund.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Legislative Department

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Impact Year
Personal Services	\$0	\$75,756
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$0	\$7,000
Commissioner Costs	\$0	\$11,664
Legal Services	\$0	\$250,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$0	\$21,903
FTE – Personal Services	0.0 FTE	1.0 FTE
FTE – Legal Services	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Total Costs	\$0	\$367,603
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	1.0 FTE

Staff

The Legislative Department will add 0.8 FTE Research Analyst and 0.2 FTE Staff Attorney to provide staff support to the commission and facilitate the selection of commissioners to fill any vacancies since the commission last convened. Staff support includes administrative, legal, geographic information services, and policy research and analysis.

Commissioner Costs

Commissioners receive a per diem of \$200 for each meeting and \$124 for travel expenses and mileage reimbursement. For an assumed three meetings at the state capitol, this totals about \$11,000.

Legal Services

The commission will contract with outside legal counsel to provide legal assistance in reviewing maps, complying with the measures criteria, and defending any legal challenges.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in the table(s) above.

Judicial Department

There will be a minimal workload increase for the Colorado Supreme Court to review any maps outside of a redistricting year.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial Legislative Council Staff