



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 25-1257: RELINQUISHMENT OF CHILD IN NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICE

**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. Keltie

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill makes several changes regarding the voluntary relinquishment of children.

**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 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
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**

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Current safe haven laws in the state allow parents to voluntarily relinquish their child at fire stations, hospitals, and community clinic emergency centers, if the newborn is less than 72 hours old. This bill extends the time period that a newborn may be relinquished at an authorized facility to 60 days of age. In addition, the bill makes several other changes regarding the voluntary relinquishment of children, as outlined below.

### **Authorized Facilities**

The bill allows authorized facilities to install a newborn safety device for the voluntary relinquishment of a child. The bill requires facilities to install devices in a conspicuous location and make certain information about reunification and counseling available to the parent.

### **Authorized Individuals**

The bill clarifies who is authorized to take temporary custody of a relinquished child. Healthcare professionals receiving a child are allowed to perform a brief health screening and report any immediate medical care provided, as well as any long-term health services the child may need. Authorized individuals who receive a relinquished child are protected from civil or criminal liability for actions taken in good faith. The bill changes the required window for notifying law enforcement and county departments of a relinquishment from 24 hours to four hours.

### **Relinquishing Parents**

If a parent who has relinquished a child seeks reunification, the court must order the parent to undergo counseling or parenting classes before the reunification can proceed.

## **State Expenditures**

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The bill will minimally impact state agency workload. First, the expanded timeframe to relinquish a child and the availability of safety devices may lead to a slight increase in relinquishments, which would result in increased case filings and trial court workload for the Judicial Department for expedited placement cases, adoption filings, and potential reunification cases. Increased relinquishments may also affect workload in the Department of Human Services to track and report on the number of such relinquishments. Given the low number of child relinquishment cases each year, any impacts are expected to be negligible.

## **Local Government**

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To the extent that this bill increases the number of relinquishments, workload and costs increases for county departments to track and report on the number of such surrenders, file a motion to terminate the parental rights of the surrendering parent, to care for the infant, and to place the child in foster care. Costs will also increase for local facilities that opt to install newborn safety devices.

## **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 and Local Government Contacts**

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Counties	Judicial
Fire Chiefs	Public Health and Environment
Human Services	

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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](#).