



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Initiative 89

Fiscal Summary

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LCS TITLE: CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 89

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at www.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State expenditures. The initiative will increase state expenditures in future fiscal years to house offenders for longer periods in Department of Corrections facilities instead of releasing them on parole. According to the Department of Corrections, about 452 offenders on average are sentenced to prison for the offenses identified in the initiative and spend on average 15 to 23 years in prison. Actual costs will depend on the change to an offender's length of stay, which depend on numerous factors and cannot be estimated. For informational purposes, it currently costs \$55,717 per year to house an offender in prison and \$6,271 per year to supervise an offender on parole. The measure will apply to offenders convicted after passage of this measure, so the impacts on the correctional system under the measure would likely start in the mid-2030's and beyond, based on the average sentences for these offenses.

Economic impacts. Longer prison sentences will reduce workforce participation, which may reduce economic activity from labor and spending and may increase government spending on prisons and social welfare programs. To the extent that the initiative decreases criminal activity, those otherwise impacted by crime may experience better economic outcomes.