



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-1050	Date:	March 27, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Sirota; Taggart Sen. Bridges; Kirkmeyer	Bill Status:	House Appropriations
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Bill Topic: **PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS CASH FUND**

Summary of Fiscal Impact: **Budget package bill — No fiscal impact.** The bill clarifies the use of funds in the Preschool Programs Cash Fund.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the FY 2024-25 budget package.

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits the General Assembly from appropriating the full balance in the Preschool Programs Cash Fund, requiring them to leave an amount in reserve. The Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) can access reserve funds by submitting a request for a supplemental appropriation from the Joint Budget Committee.

The bill also clarifies that, after providing services to preschool students specified in current law, the CDEC may use the remaining money appropriated from the Preschool Programs Cash Fund to provide additional preschool services for certain low-income families and for the Universal Preschool Program.

Background

In FY 2023-24, the Joint Budget Committee appropriated \$28.4 million from the General Fund to the Preschool Programs Cash Fund to build a reserve to serve as a buffer in the event of the unexpected costs. The reserve amount was set via the budgeting and figure-setting process and not in statute.

Assessment of No Fiscal Impact

The bill establishes policies that clarify the use of funds in the Preschool Program Cash Fund. Funds currently in reserve will remain in reserve unless requested by the CDEC and approved by the Joint Budget Committee. As a result, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Joint Budget Committee Staff

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](#).