



Joint Budget Committee Staff

Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Craig Harper, JBC Staff (303-866-3481)
Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025
Subject: [House Action 2025 Orbital Bills](#)

As introduced, the FY 2025-26 budget package included 64 bills sponsored by the Joint Budget Committee, including the Long Bill (S.B. 25-206) and 63 separate (“orbital”) bills making statutory changes (S.B. 25-207 through 269). The package also includes balancing assumptions associated with a variety of other bills. Senate Bill 25-270 (Enterprise Nursing Facility Provider Fees) is not a JBC bill but is included in the budget assumptions and is moving along with the budget package. The Committee will consider additional bill drafts *for introduction* during the week of April 13.

This memorandum summarizes House amendments to the orbital bills moving with the 2025 Long Bill. A previous memorandum (dated April 11, 2025) addressed House Amendments to the Long Bill.

Orbital Bills Lost on Floor

Two budget package bills were lost on the floor, one on second reading and one on third reading. Combined, the loss of these bills *increases* FY 2025-26 General Fund appropriations by \$136,567.

- S.B. 25-237 (Behavioral Health Voucher Program) lost on second reading (via a Committee of the Whole amendment). The budget package assumes a savings of \$50,000 General Fund associated with this bill.
- S.B. 25-251 (Repeal Kidney Disease Prevention Education Task Force) lost on third reading. The budget package assumes a savings of \$86,567 General Fund associated with this bill.

Bills with Substantive Amendments

The House adopted substantive amendments to 11 bills, although several of those simply reverse amendments adopted in the Senate.

S.B. 25-212 (Temporary Inmate Transfer): The bill allows the Department of Corrections to temporarily use the Centennial Correctional Facility-south C-Tower to house protective, close, and medium-custody inmates for the duration of a capital renewal project at the Sterling Correctional Facility. House Amendment **L.002** struck additional planning and reporting requirements that the Senate had added to the bill on second reading.

S.B. 25-214 (Healthy School Meals for All): The bill makes a variety of changes to contain the costs of the Healthy School Meals for All Program in the Department of Education. House Appropriations adopted two amendments to the bill:

- Amendment **L.004** restored language from the introduced bill that specifies that if the Department of Education, in consultation with OSPB, estimates that the amount of money available for the program after July 1, 2026, is less than the cost of the program then action to prorate funding is paused for up to 30 days to allow the JBC to decide whether it wishes to make a supplemental or interim supplemental adjustment. Senate amendment **L.002** removed this pause and amendment **L.004** restores the language.
- Amendment **L.005** made technical clarifications to the process for determining whether voter approval in the 2025 election will generate \$150 million annually (clarifying changes adopted in Senate amendment L.001).

S.B. 25-228 (Enterprise Disability Insurance Buy-in Premiums): The bill repeals the Medicaid Buy-in Cash fund and creates the Health Care Affordability and Sustainability Medicaid Buy-in Cash fund within the Colorado Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability Enterprise (CHASE). Floor amendment **L.001** changes the required membership of the Medicaid Buy-in Enterprise Support Board (created in the bill), replacing a representative from the Department of Human Services with a representative from the Department of Labor and Employment. (Note: JBC Staff was uncertain whether to classify this change as substantive or technical.)

S.B. 25-229 (Reimbursement for Community Health Workers): The bill repeals reimbursements for community health workers under Medicaid. Under current law, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing expects to implement the new reimbursements authorized by S.B. 23-002 (Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Services) in July 2025.

- Amendment **L.002** reverses Senate Amendment **L.001**. The Senate amendment struck the text of the introduced bill and required the Department to begin reimbursements for community health workers in July. Amendment L.002 reinstates the introduced bill and the \$2.8 million General Fund savings assumed in the budget package.
- The House also adopted technical amendment **L.003** on second reading but then reversed that decision with a Committee of the Whole amendment.

S.B. 25-254 (Transfer to Stationary Sources Control Fund): The bill directs the State Treasurer to transfer \$5.0 million from the General Fund to the Stationary Sources Control Fund in the Department of Public Health and Environment on July 1, 2025. Floor Amendment **L.002** adds reporting requirements to the bill, requiring the Department to report annually from FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29 on the “implementation of efficiency improvement projects related to the Stationary Sources Control Fund.” The amendment also broadened the title of the bill to accommodate the additional reporting requirements.

S.B. 25-257 (Modify General Fund Transfers to the State Highway Fund): The bill modifies transfers from the General Fund to the State Highway Fund pursuant to S.B. 21-260. As introduced, the bill reduces the FY 2025-26 transfer by \$71.0 million in FY 2025-26 and \$56.5

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million in FY 2026-27 (and increases transfers in the outyears). Amendment **L.002** further reduced the transfer in FY 2025-26 by \$3.8 million and increased the transfer in FY 2032-33 by the same amount.

S.B. 25-258 (Temporarily Reduce Road Safety Surcharge): The bill reduces road safety surcharges levied pursuant to S.B. 09-108 ("FASTER"). The introduced bill made the fee reduction effective January 1, 2026. Senate Amendment **L.001** moved the implementation date to July 1, 2026, in order to achieve the revenue reduction assumed in the budget package. However, in response to concerns from the Department of Revenue about the ability to implement the reduction by July 1, House Amendment **L.002** reversed the Senate amendment and reinstated January 1, 2026, as the implementation date. The amendment results in an estimated increase of \$11.9 million in TABOR revenue relative the amount assumed in the budget package.

S.B. 25-261 (Property Tax Deferral Program): The bill returns administration of the Deferred Property Tax Program from a state-administered program to a county-administered program, beginning in FY 2025-26. The House Appropriations Committee amended the bill and then the House further amended it during second reading.

- The Appropriations Committee adopted Amendment **J.001**, which added an appropriation of \$160,826 General Fund to the Department of the Treasury for FY 2025-26.
- However, Amendment **L.003** (adopted on second reading) strikes the appropriation clause added by amendment J.001 and instead: (1) authorizes the use of 12 different (and unrelated) cash funds to support the program in FY 2025-26 only and (2) appropriates a total of \$721,716 from those cash funds to support the program in FY 2025-26.

S.B. 25-262 (Changes to Money in the Capital Construction Fund): The bill makes transfers to the Capital Construction Fund and the Information Technology Capital Account within the Capital Construction Fund to support capital-related appropriations included in the Long Bill. The House adopted three amendments.

- The Appropriations Committee adopted amendment **L.004**, which reversed Senate Amendment **L.003** and increased the transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund by \$9,307,023 – restoring the transfer to the amount in the introduced bill.
- On second reading, the House adopted Amendment **L.005**, which *decreases* the transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund by \$76,923 and is associated with Long Bill Amendment #3/J.145, which changed capital construction projects in the Long Bill.
- On second reading, the House also adopted Amendment **L.012**, which is technical.

SB. 25-268 (Changes to Money in the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund): The bill reduces appropriations from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund (MTCF) for the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program within the Department of Higher Education and eliminates a statutory transfer from the MTCF to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund

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currently scheduled to take place on June 1, 2026. The introduced bill also increases the state share of the marijuana special sales tax revenue by 5.0 percent, from 90.0 percent of revenues to 95.0 percent (by decreasing the distribution to local governments).

- The Appropriations Committee adopted Amendment **L.002**, which eliminated a transfer of \$550,000 to the Marijuana Entrepreneur Fund that the Senate had added to the bill with amendment **L.001**.
- However, floor amendment **L.005** struck the Appropriations Committee Report, thus restoring the transfer to the Marijuana Entrepreneur Fund in FY 2025-26.
- Floor amendment **L.006** further reduces the local share of marijuana tax revenue from 5.0 percent in the introduced bill to 3.5 percent. The amendment also adjusts the allocation of revenues, diverting the additional state revenues resulting from the amendment to the Marijuana Cash Fund (as compared to the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund).

Finally, while it is not a JBC bill, staff notes that the House adopted Amendment **L.003** to S.B. 25-270 (Enterprise Nursing Facility Provider Fees), which added reporting and transparency requirements to the bill.

Technical Amendments

The House Appropriations Committee also adopted a **technical** amendment to S.B. 25-226 (Extending Spinal and Related Medical Programs). Amendment **L.001** made a number of changes to the bill but it is staff's understanding that they were all technical in nature.