Joint Budget Committee Staff

Memorandum

To:	Joint Budget Committee Members
From:	Craig Harper, JBC Staff (303-866-3481)
Date:	Thursday, April 3, 2025
Subject:	Senate Action on the Long Bill Package

Summary

The FY 2025-26 budget package includes 64 bills sponsored by the Joint Budget Committee, including the Long Bill (S.B. 25-206) and 63 separate bills that make 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 Appropriations Committee adopted several amendments to package bills that were sponsored by JBC members, which were generally technical in nature. In addition, the Senate amended six of the package bills on second reading. Staff briefly summarizes the various amendments below.

Long Bill Amendments Adopted on Second Reading

For second reading on April 2, JBC Staff prepared 61 **Long Bill amendments**. Members offered a total of 53 amendments and the Senate adopted 10. The attached table summarizes the changes to the **Long Bill** as finally approved. In total, the amendments:

- Increase appropriations by a total of $31.8 million;
- Increase **General Fund** appropriations by $7.4 million;
- Increase appropriations by a total of $2.1 million cash funds and $0.4 million reappropriated funds;
- Reflect an additional $21.8 million federal funds; and
- Reflect 1.0 additional FTE associated with the Address Confidentiality Program in the Department of Personnel.

Senate Appropriations Committee Amendments

The Appropriations Committee adopted **sponsor amendments** to make corrections and technical changes to 8 bills.

- **S.B. 25-229 (Reimbursement for Community Health Workers)**: Amendment **J.001** corrected the bill's title to reflect that the bill is *reducing* appropriations.

- **S.B. 25-247 (Tuition Waiver and Colorado National Guard Members)**: Amendment **L.001** made technical changes to clarify the calculation determining whether funding for the program is sufficient and when prorating or suspension of payments is required.
- **S.B. 25-251 (Repeal Kidney Disease Prevention Education Task Force)**: Amendment **J.001** added an appropriation clause that reduces the FY 2025-26 appropriation to the General Assembly to eliminate per diem funding related to the Kidney Disease Prevention Education Task Force.
- **SB 25-258 (Temporarily Reduce Road Safety Surcharge)**: Amendment **L.001** struck the petition clause in the bill and added a safety clause. The amendment also adjusted the bill for the fee reduction to start on July 1, 2025, rather than January 1, 2026, as was in the introduced bill.
- **S.B. 25-262 (Changes to Money in the Capital Construction Fund)**: Amendment **L.001** added provisions specifying that beginning in FY 2025-26 all interest and income earned on the Capital Construction Fund and the Information Technology Capital Account will go to the General Fund rather than be retained in the respective fund/account. (This change aligns with the policy approved by the Committee for interest earned on the funds.)
- **S.B. 25-264 (Transfers from the General Fund)**: Amendment **L.001** made a technical correction to clarify the amount to be transferred from the Private Occupational Schools Fund.
- **S.B. 25-266 (Repeal Statutory Appropriation Requirements)**: Amendment **J.001** corrected the title to specify that the bill is making and reducing appropriations.
- **S.B. 25-270 (Enterprise Nursing Facility Provider Fees)**: Amendment **J.001** added the bill's appropriation clause.

Senate Second Reading Amendments

The Senate also amended six of the package bills, as described below.

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. On second reading, the Senate adopted amendment **L.001**, which added language that requires the Department of Corrections to provide a structured relocation plan to the Joint Budget Committee at least 30 days prior to relocating inmates to the facility and also specifies the requirements of that plan. The amendment also requires the Department to provide updates on the status of the Sterling project at its annual SMART Act hearings. **The Senate JBC members indicated that this was a friendly amendment.**

S.B. 25-214 (Healthy School Meals for All Program): The bill makes a variety of changes to contain the costs of the Healthy School Meals for All Program in the Department of Education. The Senate adopted **sponsor amendments L.001 and L.002** on second reading. Amendment **L.001** made a technical change to modify the reference to a November 2025 referred measure to provide additional program revenue. As introduced, the bill specified that to avoid the program being scaled back in January 2026, voters must adopt a measure that increases tax collections by at least $90.0 million dollars annually. Amendment **L.001** replaces this with a requirement that the combined revenue from the existing Healthy School Meals for All tax and a new tax to increase program revenue must total at least $150.0 million annually. This addresses a concern raised by state economists about how federal tax changes could decrease the amount raised by a new measure as currently outlined in H.B. 25-1274 while simultaneously increasing the amount provided by the existing Healthy School Meals for All tax. The revised language addresses this problem. Amendment **L.002** strikes language in the introduced bill that specified 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, action to prorate funding is paused for up to 30 days so that the JBC may decide if it wishes to make a supplemental or interim supplemental adjustment. Amendment **L.002** strikes language requiring a pause and simply states that the Department will notify the JBC and school districts and begin to prorate funding.

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. The Senate adopted strike-below amendment **L.001** on second reading. This amendment eliminated the text of the introduced bill and replaced it with language directing the State Treasurer to transfer $1,403,512 from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund to the General Fund on July 1, 2025. The amendment also added language directing the Department to reimburse eligible community health workers, subject to available appropriations, upon receiving any necessary federal authorization to do so.

S.B. 25-261 (Property Tax Deferral Program Administration): The bill changes the administration of the Deferred Property Tax Program from state-administered to county-administered. The Senate adopted **sponsor amendment L.001** on second reading. The amendment limits eligibility for the property tax deferral program to seniors and persons called into active military service, repealing the expansion of the program beyond those groups authorized in S.B. 21-293.

S.B. 25-262 (Changes to the Amount of 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 align transfers to those accounts with appropriations included in the Long Bill. Amendment **L.003** reduces the transfer to the Capital Construction Fund for FY 2025-26 by $9,307,023. The amendment corresponds to **Long Bill amendment 22 (J.060),** which reduces *appropriations* for capital construction by that amount and reallocates the money to a variety of other uses (see attached table for information on the Long Bill amendment).

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 currently scheduled to take place on June 1, 2026. The 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 Senate adopted amendment **L.001** on second reading. The amendment requires the State Treasurer to transfer $550,000 from the MTCF to the Marijuana Entrepreneur Fund on July 1, 2025.

Senate-adopted Long Bill Amendments

#	J#	Dept	Sponsor	Purpose Clauses	Total	GF	CF	RF	FF	FTE
8	J059	COR, HED	Liston	Reduces the appropriation for the Recreation Subprogram in the Department of Corrections by $436,616 General Fund. Adds $436,616 General Fund and $436,616 reappropriated funds in the Department of Higher Education with a footnote specifying that this funding is for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs for allocation to the National Cybersecurity Center.	436,616	0	0	436,616	0	0.0
21	J067	HCP	Cutter, Pelton, R	Restores rates for occupational, physical, and speech therapies in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, which were reduced for multiple therapies in the introduced bill.	6,500,000	1,950,000	455,000	0	4,095,000	0.0
22	J060	CAP, HCP, PBS, HUM	Hinrichsen	Increases General Fund across multiple departments by a total of $9,307,023, including Medical and Long-Term Care Services for Medicaid Eligible Individuals in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Treatment and Detoxification Programs in the Department of Human Services, and Safer Streets in the Department of Public Safety. Adds a project for the Department of Education - Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and removes a project for the Department of Corrections - Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center in Capital Construction for a net decrease of $9,307,023 from the Capital Construction Fund. A companion amendment (L.003) to S.B. 25-262 reduces the transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund by $9,307,023.	12,412,007	0	685,499	0	11,726,508	0.0
23	J064	HCP	Frizell	Reduce $1,845,401 General Fund from the line item that pays contingency fees for the recovery audit contractor (RAC) program in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.	-1,845,401	-1,845,401	0	0	0	0.0
25	J071	HCP, CAP	Mullica, Simpson	Adds $5,611,179 General Fund and $5,527,384 matching federal funds to the Primary Care Fund in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. The $5,611,179 General Fund is the sum of the excess General Fund reserve ($2.5 million) and the placeholder for transfer to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund ($3.1 million).	11,138,563	5,611,179	0	0	5,527,384	0.0
26	J066	HCP	Pelton, R	Adds $1.2 million General Fund for the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center maternity program and a footnote to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.	1,199,146	1,199,146	0	0	0	0.0
34	J055	HUM, CAP	Cutter	Increases by $1.0 million total funds, including $500,000 General Fund and $500,000 federal funds, the appropriation to the Department of Human Services for outreach related to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administration.	1,000,000	500,000	0	0	500,000	0.0
35	J053	JUD	Weissman	Adds a footnote to Trial Court Programs in the Judicial Department regarding S.B. 25-024 (Judicial Officers) and the ongoing assessment of prioritization of judgeships.	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
41	J048	PER	Frizell	Shifts $40,676 General Fund in the Department of Personnel from the Colorado Equity Office to the Address Confidentiality Program, while adding 1.0 FTE to the Program.	0	0	0	0	0	1.0
46	J072	PBH	Winter	Adds $959,310 cash funds to the Environmental Justice Program Costs line in the Department of Public Health and Environment.	959,310	0	959,310	0	0	0.0
				Total	31,800,241	7,414,924	2,099,809	436,616	21,848,892	1.0