

Amendment 48



Colorado Legislative Council Staff
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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BALLOT TITLE: DEFINITION OF PERSON

Summary of Measure

Amendment 48 proposes a change to the state constitution that defines the term person to include any human being from the moment of fertilization. This definition is applied to the sections of the Colorado Constitution that protect the natural and essential rights of persons, allow open access to courts for every person, and ensure that no person has his or her life, liberty, or property taken away without the due process of law.

Assessment

At this time, the amendment is assessed at having no fiscal impact. Because the amendment does not include language directing the state to implement use of the new definition, no impact to state revenue or spending is expected. State programs such as Medicaid and the Children's Basic Health Plan currently provide prenatal care based on the mother's eligibility, so the unborn already receive those benefits. If the amendment is adopted, the courts may determine that the definition applies in certain situations, and require the state to provide services. Costs that may result from potential legal challenges to the measure cannot be estimated.