

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: February 20, 2026

ISSUE:	Should CPW set the Firearms Training and Safety Course Record Fee at \$52.00?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

CPW's Firearms Safety Program is recommending that the Parks and Wildlife Commission set the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Firearms Training and Safety Course Record Fee (FTSCRF) at \$52.00. A successful applicant who applies for and receives authority to purchase Specified Semiautomatic Firearms (SSFs) through this process will only need to pay this fee every five years.

Currently, Colorado Bureau of Investigation charges \$52.50 for a new concealed handgun permit (CHP), which is good for 5 years. CPW fee would parallel that fee for the FTSCRF to stay consistent in state government, as the number of applicants for the Firearms Safety Program is unknown.

There is no known measurement or comparison to determine number of applicants per year. See attachment of chart with 3 proposed fee amounts, estimating 25,000 applicants a year and payoff period. First year number of applicants are assumed to be down, second and third year number of applicants are expected to increase.

Initial funding from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund has been transferred to the new Firearms Training and Safety Course Cash Fund to implement the program for FY 25-26 at \$1.5 million. As required by the bill, this initial funding from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund will be restored with interest as fee revenue is generated in the new fund by July 1, 2030. This fee is collected per the statute "for the specific purpose of defraying costs of providing record-keeping services to fee payers to enable them to purchase specified semiautomatic firearms.....and is collected at a rate that is reasonably related to the overall cost of operating and maintaining the firearms training and safety course record system...."

Senate Bill 25-003 was signed into law in Colorado on April 10, 2025 and codified in 9 different statutes, 3 of which directly pertain to CPW involvement to include 18-12-116, 33-9-115 and 24-35-122. The bill prohibits the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of a Specified Semiautomatic Firearm (SSF), defined as a semiautomatic rifle or shotgun with a detachable magazine or a gas-operated semiautomatic handgun with a detachable magazine starting August 1, 2026.

CPW's involvement in this new law is in the administration of a person completing the required basic or extended Firearms Safety Course, depending on whether or not the individual holds a valid hunter education certification, prior to the purchase of a SSF. To accomplish that, CPW is required to:

- Create a form for an applicant to submit to their county sheriff for review and issuance or denial of a firearms safety course eligibility card.
- Establish curriculum for the Basic and Extended firearms safety course.
- Develop and operate a system of records for administration of the firearms safety program.
- Provide a report to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee about the expenses incurred by CPW to implement the bill enacted earlier this year, on or before December 31, 2025 and on or before December 31 each year thereafter.

CRS 33-9-115(5)(a) directs CPW, "The commission shall establish a firearms training and safety course record fee for a person to be included in the system. The fee must reflect actual direct and indirect costs to implement this section. The commission may adjust the fee, but shall not adjust the fee more than one time each year. The division shall transmit the fee money remitted to the division by a sheriff pursuant to section 18-12-116(5)(b) to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the fee money in the firearms training and safety course cash fund.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE

AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

64 Sheriff's Offices within the state of Colorado – On January 13, 2026, online call with the 64 Sheriff's Offices (SO) yielded about 6 comments concerning how it will be implemented. County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC) group organized CPW staff presentation to SO administrative staff on January 19, 2026. Feedback received was concern over Firearm Instructor verification, counties that will charge vs those that will not charge a fee and determining eligibility of applicant. On January 21, 2026, presented in-person at the invite of CSOC, to 64 Sheriffs of Colorado. Feedback received was concern of how SO will collect a CPW fee, Firearm Instructor verification, applicants applying in a county they do not live in and combining safety curriculum with concealed handgun permit to maximize time. On February 18, 2026, conducted a virtual call with SO administrative staff regarding fee collection, eligibility card issuance and accepted background checks.

Firearm Instructors – Several Firearms Instructors have reached out to CPW about the upcoming implementation of SB25-003 and inquired/offered assistance in development of the curriculum. CPW staff met with several of the Firearm Instructors on January 4, 2026. On February 9, 2026, CPW conducted an online webinar of the Firearms Safety Program specific to Firearms Instructors and their involvement in the program. General feedback included how to sign up as an Instructor, how to get the CPW provided curriculum and how CPW would train the Instructors. In-person meetings with Firearm Instructors are planned for February in Denver and Grand Junction.

General Public – Online and in-person stakeholder meetings are planned with this group in February, March and April of 2026 in different areas of the state.

Federal Firearm Licensees (aka Gun Dealers) – On February 9, 2026, CPW conducted an online webinar of the Firearms Safety Program specific to Gun Dealers and their involvement in the program. General feedback included resident vs nonresident gun sales, how gun dealers would check the database to verify safety training of the applicant and which guns would be on the SSF list as that will drive sales. In-person meetings with Gun Dealers are planned for February in Denver and Grand Junction.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Set FTSCRF at \$52.00, per payoff tables that puts CPW paying off the loan with interest, per the statute, prior to 2030. With unknown number of applicants this gives CPW room in case circumstances change.
2. Set the FTSCRF at \$60 to recoup expenses for the program at a faster rate assuming the first year of the program number of applicants will be reduced or program could face court injunction. Unknown costs to possibly include additional personnel to run the program will increase expenses. The Commission could reduce the fee in subsequent years when a better pattern of applicant numbers is established and CPW has paid itself back to get the program up and self-sustaining.
3. Set the FTSCRF at \$40 to stay with the fiscal note projection until applicant numbers become more stable. Unknown costs to possibly include additional personnel to run the program will increase expenses. Based on the attached projected payoff tables CPW would not pay off the loan with interest, per the statute, by 2030.

Issue Raised by:

Statute

**Author of the issue paper
(if different than person raising the
issue):**

Dan Coil

CC:	Jim Hawkins
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Ty Petersburg
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	YES
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Field Services, I & E
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	NO

Firearm Safety Loan Payoff with \$52 Fee and 25,000 Applicants					
	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Expenses	\$1,069,000	\$1,036,500	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
Loan Deposit	\$1,547,080				
Fee Revenue/Interest earned	\$49,969	\$1,300,000*	\$1,300,000*	\$1,300,000*	\$1,300,000*
Net	\$528,049	\$263,500	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000
Loan	\$ 1,547,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148
Loan Balance	-\$1,073,179	-\$863,827	-\$367,975	\$127,877	\$623,729
*Excludes interest earned in the fund for FY27-FY30 annually due to fluctuations in monthly expenditures and revenues					
Firearm Safety Loan Payoff with \$40 Fee and 25,000 Applicants					
	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Expenses	\$1,069,000	\$1,036,500	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
Loan Deposit	\$1,547,080				
Fee Revenue/Interest earned	\$49,969	\$1,000,000*	\$1,000,000*	\$1,000,000*	\$1,000,000*
Net	\$528,049	-\$36,500	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Loan	\$ 1,547,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148
Loan Balance	-\$1,073,179	-\$1,163,827	-\$967,975	-\$772,123	-\$576,271
*Excludes interest earned in the fund for FY27-FY30 annually due to fluctuations in monthly expenditures and revenues					
Firearm Safety Loan Payoff with \$60 Fee and 25,000 Applicants					
	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Expenses	\$1,069,000	\$1,036,500	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
Loan Deposit	\$1,547,080				
Fee Revenue/Interest earned	\$49,969	\$1,500,000*	\$1,500,000*	\$1,500,000*	\$1,500,000*
Net	\$528,049	\$463,500	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
Loan	\$ 1,547,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,148
Loan Balance	-\$1,073,179	-\$663,827	\$32,025	\$727,877	\$1,423,729
*Excludes interest earned in the fund for FY27-FY30 annually due to fluctuations in monthly expenditures and revenues					