



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Craig Harper, JBC Staff (303-866-3481)
Date: April 21, 2026
Subject: Orbital Bills Awaiting Conference Committee Action

Eight orbital bills are awaiting conference committee action. Staff is breaking them into two categories based on whether they are tied to the Long Bill or balancing for FY 2026-27. **Staff recommends that the Committee discuss each of the bills and, where possible, provide guidance for the pending conference committee report.**

Bills with Differences Not Tied to Balancing for FY 2026-27

Three of the bills have differences that only relate to the outyears (FY 2027-28 and beyond). The differences between the chambers would not impact balancing for the current budget. **JBC Staff does not have additional information or input beyond what the Committee has already heard – but is available for questions.**

- H.B. 26-1380 (Office of Judicial Discipline Ombudsman): The House-passed bill extends the program for an additional year (without adding money) while the Senate-passed bill repeals it this year (as introduced).
- H.B. 26-1399 (General Fund Transfers to MMOF): Both the House- and Senate-passed bills would restore the \$10.5 million annual transfers for FY 2027-28 through FY 2031-32. The Senate also added a technical amendment which created the only difference between the chambers.
- H.B. 26-1409 (Marijuana Tax Distributions): The Senate-passed bill restores the 3.5 percent local share of special sales tax revenue beginning in FY 2027-28, which would reduce revenue retained by the State by about \$6.0 million per year going forward.

Bills with Differences Tied to Balancing for FY 2026-27

The remaining five bills (plus the Long Bill) have differences that relate to the FY 2026-27 budget.

- H.B. 26-1357 (Phase-out of TREP Program):
 - The House-passed bill would end the program for FY 2026-27, as introduced.
 - The Senate-passed bill would continue the program for seniors graduating from high school in 2026. The Senate amendment pays for the change with a transfer of \$799,200 from the Electrifying School Buses Grant Program Cash Fund to the State Education Fund (and an appropriation from the State Education Fund).

- H.B. 26-1363 (Temp. Reduce General Fund Reserve): The Senate adopted a technical amendment creating the difference between chambers.
- H.B. 26-1405 (Cash Fund Transfers to General Fund):
 - Both chambers adopted amendments transferring \$74,654 from the Governor’s Mansion Maintenance Fund to the General Fund on July 1, 2026. The change was tied to a Long Bill amendment reducing appropriations from the Governor’s Mansion Maintenance Fund by that amount and increasing appropriations by the same amount from the Veterans’ Services Trust Fund. However, the amendments to H.B. 26-1405 do not add any money to the Veterans’ Services Trust Fund.
 - The Senate added an amendment transferring an additional \$7.1 million from the OIT Revolving Fund to the General Fund in FY 2026-27 that was tied to a Long Bill amendment related to IDD services.
 - The Senate also added an amendment transferring \$300,000 from the Electrifying School Buses Grant Program Cash Fund to the General Fund. The amendment is tied to a Long Bill amendment adding \$300,000 General Fund for Veterans’ Treatment Courts. **If the Committee wishes to retain the Long Bill increase for Veterans’ Treatment Courts, it is JBC Staff’s that the Offender Services Fund in the Judicial Branch has sufficient balance available to cover the increase.**
- H.B. 26-1411 (Changes to Cover All Coloradans):
 - The House-passed bill eliminates the 25,000-youth enrollment cap and the limit on child dental benefits, increasing state costs by an estimated \$6.6 million for FY 2026-27. To pay for the increase, the amendment reduces appropriations for private prison per diem payments in the Department of Corrections by \$6.2 million General Fund and increases appropriations to HCPF by \$6.6 million state funds (and either \$6.2 million or \$6.6 million General Fund, depending on the status of the Adult Dental Fund and H.B. 26-1401).
 - The Senate stripped the House amendment and removed the fiscal impact of the change.
- H.B. 26-1412 (HCPF Extrapolation Audit):
 - The House adopted an amendment striking “alleged” throughout the bill.
 - The Senate stripped the House amendment and then added language regarding requirements and limitations for the extrapolation audits. **JBC Staff now assumes that the Senate amendment would eliminate the savings associated with H.B. 26-1412.**