

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**STATE**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 10-0697  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. King K.  
 Rep. Middleton

**Date:** February 8, 2010  
**Bill Status:** Senate Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL EDUCATION CORE COURSES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
<b>State Revenue</b>		
Cash Funds	\$36,820	\$36,820
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
Cash Funds	\$36,820	\$36,820
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) and the state-supported institutions of higher education are required to define a process for students to test out of core courses. This program, known as gtPATHWAYS, currently includes more than 1,000 lower-division general education courses in 20 subject areas approved for guaranteed transfer between public institutions.

This bill allows nonpublic institutions to request that CCHE review courses the nonpublic school believes meet general education requirements for inclusion in gtPATHWAYS. If approved, these institutions may have courses included in the statewide agreements for transferability of credits. CCHE may charge a fee for the review and approval process.

**State Revenue**

**State revenue is estimated to increase by \$36,820 in both FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 in the Department of Higher Education (DHE).** Revenue is from fees. Actual fee revenue depends on the number of nonpublic schools requesting review of their general education courses.

**Fee impact on nonpublic institutions of higher education.** Section 2-2-322, C.R.S., requires legislative service agency review of measures that create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. It is unknown how many schools, if any, will seek to have their courses approved; however, this fiscal note assumes that in both FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12, two nonpublic schools will each request review of 50 courses. A 50-course review is anticipated to be the minimum request, and fees will be established to increase by this increment.

<b>Table 1. Fee Impact: Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Education</b>			
Type of Fee	Proposed Fee	Number Affected	Total Fee Impact
<b>50-Course Review</b>	\$18,410	<b>2</b>	\$36,820

**State Expenditures**

**State expenditures are estimated to increase by \$36,820 in both FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12.**

Costs are in the Department of Higher Education to provide the administrative support necessary to review applications for course reviews, assist department and faculty staff to conduct reviews, and make recommendations to the CCHE upon completion of reviews. Each public institution of higher education will also provide faculty reviewers of the nonpublic school's courses. Faculty reviewers will assess the nonpublic school's course curriculum against existing standards and negotiate acceptance of courses into the gtPATHWAYS matrix. Faculty costs are estimated on an hourly rate based on average faculty salary at the associate professor rank in a public college of arts and sciences. Table 2 displays costs of the bill.

<b>Table 2. Total Expenditures Under SB10-108</b>		
Cost Components	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12
Personal Services	\$25,200	\$25,200
FTE	0.4	0.4
Institution Faculty Reviewers	10,120	10,120
Travel & Lodging	1,500	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,820</b>	<b>\$36,820</b>

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2010-11, this bill requires a cash fund appropriation of \$36,820 and 0.4 FTE to the Department of Higher Education.

**Departments Contacted**

Higher Education