

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Date: June 24, 2010
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL EDUCATION CORE COURSES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
State Revenue		
Cash Funds	\$36,820	\$36,820
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds	\$36,820	\$36,820
FTE Position Change	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE
Effective Date: The bill was signed by the Governor and became law on May 27, 2010.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: 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 the Department of Higher Education (DHE) 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. The nonpublic schools must accept transfer of core course credits from public schools. The department will determine the applicable number of credit hours and subject areas to be considered and will annually review the nonpublic school's transfer agreements. The department will charge an initial review fee and an annual review fee to cover all direct and indirect costs.

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.

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

Each academic year that the nonpublic school remains included in the gtPATHWAYS matrix, the DHE will ensure that the nonpublic school's courses continue to meet the state's general education course guidelines. The DHE may charge a fee for this annual review. The initial course review fee is calculated to include one annual review, which will occur in the following fiscal year. Beginning in FY 2012-13, the DHE will establish an annual review fee amount to cover any ongoing costs necessary to perform these annual reviews.

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 initial and annual reviews, and make recommendations to the CCHE. 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.

Table 2. Total Expenditures Under SB10-108		
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
TOTAL	\$36,820	\$36,820

State Appropriations

Consistent with this fiscal note, the bill contains a FY 2010-11 cash funds appropriation of \$36,820 and 0.4 FTE to the Department of Higher Education.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education