

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

**Note: This fiscal note is provided pursuant to Joint Rule 22(b)(2), and reflects strike-below Amendment L.001**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 12-0212	<b>Date:</b> February 6, 2012
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Sen. Hudak; King K. Rep. Massey; Fields	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate Education
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING GRANTING ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER FROM A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill creates the Associate Degree Completion Program (program) in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to award associate degrees to transfer students at four-year institutions of higher education. The DHE, in consultation with the institutions, will develop and implement the program to begin with the 2012-13 academic year.

The program requires that four-year institutions of higher education notify the DHE when a student who has transferred from a community college with at least 15 transferrable credit hours has accumulated 60 total credit hours. The DHE, in turn, will notify the community college of the student's credit history and request that the school perform a degree audit. Following the degree audit, if the community college determines the student has met the requirements to award an associate degree, the college must notify the student that he or she has met those requirements, and that the college will award the degree to the student unless the student declines. If the degree audit determines that the student has not met the degree requirements, the college will notify the student of the additional requirements that must be met to earn the degree.

### **State Expenditures**

There are minimal costs for the DHE to establish the program and to share the data collected by the four-year institutions of higher education with the community college system. The four-year institutions will have technology expenses to adjust the Student Records Data System (SRDS) in order to track the accumulation of credits by transfer students and flag the record when the threshold is met. These institutions must then report flagged records to the DHE. Upon receiving notice, the two-year institutions will then perform a degree audit, and when appropriate, contact the student to offer the completed associate degree. Tracking student data, performing degree audits, data sharing, and student outreach are considered routine activities for the institutions and the DHE. The cost to modify these activities are anticipated to be minimal and can be met with existing resources.

### **Departments Contacted**

Higher Education