

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0212	Date: June 6, 2012
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Hudak; King K. Rep. Massey; Fields	Bill Status: Signed into Law
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect April 18, 2012.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), in collaboration with state institutions of higher education, develop and coordinate a notification process for students who satisfy certain eligibility requirements to receive an associates degree. The notification process must begin no later than the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year.

If a student completes the residency requirements at a two-year institution, transfers to a four-year institution, and accumulates a total of 70 credit hours, the student must be notified that he or she may be eligible to receive an associate degree from the two-year institution.

The notification process developed by the CCHE must specify the role of the Department of Higher Education (DHE), the student, and each of the institutions of higher education, with the role of the of the four-year institutions limited to providing the eligible student's contact information. The notice to an eligible student must include the requirements for having a degree audit performed by the two-year institution and information about the process for the student to be awarded an associate degree in the future if the degree requirements are not met or if the student chooses at that time to decline the degree award.

State Expenditures

There are minimal costs for the DHE to establish the process 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, flag the record when the threshold is met, and provide contact information to the DHE. Upon receiving notice, the two-year institutions will have additional costs to 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 costs to modify these activities are anticipated to be minimal and can be met within existing appropriations.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education