

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0759 **Date:** March 18, 2015  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Winter **Bill Status:** House Business, Affairs and Labor  
 Sen. Heath; Marble **Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**BILL TOPIC:** CAREER & TECH ED IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$450,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$450,000</u></b>
General Fund	450,000	450,000
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$450,000 - Department of Higher Education (FY 2015-16)		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill clarifies that career and technical course work related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs may be used for concurrent enrollment, and directs the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board to collaborate with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), the Colorado Workforce Development Council, area vocational schools, and two-year institutions of higher education to create recommendations to assist local education providers to create cooperative agreements that include apprenticeship programs and internship programs in concurrent enrollment programs. The annual report that the CDE prepares concerning concurrent enrollment must also include information about enrollment in career and technical education courses, internships, and apprenticeships.

The bill directs the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to create a tuition assistance program for students enrolled in career and technical education certificate programs. The CCHE must allocate money to community colleges, area vocational schools, and local district junior colleges to provide tuition assistance for student who meet the income eligibility requirements for the federal Pell grant, but do not qualify for the grant because the certificate program in which they are enrolled does not meet minimum credit hour requirements. The Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the institutions that receive tuition assistance funding must jointly administer the program, in accordance with policies established by the CCHE.

**State Expenditures**

**The bill increases state expenditures by \$450,000 in FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17.** Workload costs for the DHE increase beginning FY 2015-16 to create a new tuition assistance program and recommend rules for the CCHE. Workload costs are absorbable and do not require new appropriations.

***Tuition assistance program.*** The bill directs the CCHE to create a tuition assistance program for students enrolled in career and technical education certificate programs and to allocate funding to community colleges, area vocational schools, and local district junior colleges. Tuition assistance is intended to help students who meet the income eligibility criterion for federal Pell grants, but do not meet the minimum credit hour requirements. At this time, the full costs of a tuition assistance program are unknown and will depend on student eligibility as defined by CCHE, and funding decisions made by the General Assembly.

In FY-2013-14, the federal Pell grant provided up to \$5,645 per eligible student. Assuming that Colorado's tuition assistance program makes awards of a similar amount, if 80 students qualify for the total Pell amount, state expenditures increase by about \$450,000. Alternatively, the program could award half that amount to twice as many students for the same increase. Total funding for the tuition assistance program must be determined by the General Assembly following consideration of CCHE rules. As a preliminary assessment, this fiscal note estimates the minimal amount of appropriations to create and fund the program at \$450,000 in each fiscal year.

***Career and technical concurrent enrollment.*** The bill's provisions related to existing concurrent enrollment programs will not change state expenditures.

### **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2015-16, this bill requires an appropriation of \$450,000 General Fund to the Department of Higher Education.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Education

Higher Education

Labor

Law