

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 was signed into law by the Governor and it took effect on May 22, 2015.

State Appropriations

Consistent with this final fiscal note, for FY 2015-16 this bill includes an appropriation of \$450,000 General Fund to the Department of Higher Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Higher Education

Labor

Law