

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

**STATE and LOCAL  
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT**

(replaces fiscal note dated January 28, 2008)

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 08-0460	<b>Date:</b> March 6, 2008
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Sen. Williams	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate 2nd Reading
Rep. Casso	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> David Porter (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT SERVE STUDENTS WHO RESIDE ON AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN COLORADO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAST COLLEGE FAST JOBS PILOT PROGRAM.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2008-2009</b>	<b>FY 2009-2010</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2008-2009:</b> None.		
<b>School District Impact:</b> See School District Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill allows school districts that serve students living on a Colorado American Indian reservation to participate in the Fast College Fast Jobs Pilot Program. Students who attend a high school participating in the Fast College Fast Jobs Pilot Program are all eligible to participate in the program.

**Background**

The Fast College Fast Jobs Pilot Program was established by SB07-148. The program enables students to simultaneously complete the requirements of a high school diploma and an associate's degree or career and technical education certificate within five years. Qualified school districts that choose to participate must enter into a contract with one or more institutes of higher education to meet students' instructional needs. Students take a mix of high school and higher education courses and must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average.

Currently, 23 school districts and 62 target schools are eligible to participate in the program. Districts participating in the program are required to report student participation by December 15, 2008. It is unclear how many students are currently in the program. Several districts have indicated they will enter the program next year.

## **State Expenditures**

**Colorado Department of Education (CDE).** Most of the high schools that serve students living on an American Indian reservation are already eligible for the program. However, the bill may apply to 1 or 2 high schools that were previously ineligible. There are 7 school districts in or near American Indian Reservations in Colorado (the Ute Mountain Indian Reservation and the Southern Ute Indian Reservation).

In general, costs of the pilot program for students eligible under this bill mirror costs identified for SB07-148. The following is a brief summary of those costs:

- any year that a student takes more than 12 hours of higher education courses, the school district receives 85% of the per pupil funding, rather than 100%;
- reduced per pupil funding may reduce the state's obligation, though this is not expected until the student reaches the 11th or 12th grade (FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12); and
- students who otherwise would have graduated will receive 85% of per pupil funding in the fifth year of the program (FY 2012-13).

As there are currently no students known to be enrolled in the Fast College Fast Jobs Pilot Program, this fiscal note cannot quantify the number of students that may participate due to expanded eligibility offered by this bill.

**Institutions of Higher Education.** Students participating in the program increase enrollment at community colleges and career technical vocational schools. School districts will pay the institutes of higher education for each student participating in the pilot program.

## **School District Impact**

As indicated in the State Expenditures section of this fiscal note, school districts must contract with institutes of higher education to participate in this program. No moneys beyond the student per pupil funding amount is provided to the district. For academic years in which a student enrolls in 12 or more credit hours at an institute of higher education, the district receives 85% of the full per pupil amount. In negotiating the contract with the institute of higher education, the district must pay tuition, counseling and tutoring, books, and other applicable fees for the student.

## **Departments Contacted**

Education

Higher Education