

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT****Drafting Number:** LLS 10-0475**Date:** January 21, 2010**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Gibbs**Bill Status:** Senate Education

Rep. Scanlan; Massey

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TITLE: CONCERNING AUTHORIZING COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE TO OFFER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill changes the role and mission of Colorado Mountain College (CMC) to permit the school to offer baccalaureate degrees. The school will identify degrees intended to address the needs of communities in its service area.

Background

Under current law, the college may offer no more than two years of post secondary instruction. If Senate Bill 10-101 is adopted, the college is permitted to offer baccalaureate degree programs and seek approval from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) for the new degrees. Because CMC operates within a junior college district, the school is supported from local tax revenue in addition to tuition revenue. The school also receives limited state support from direct grants.

State Revenue

If approved, new undergraduate programs may increase overall student enrollment, and therefore create additional tuition revenue. Since enrollment and tuition rates are unknown, the full impact on state revenue cannot be estimated.

State Expenditures

The creation of new undergraduate programs will require a level of effort by the college to establish curriculum and admissions requirements and to obtain approval from the board of trustees and the CCHE. These efforts can be met with existing appropriations.

Once new degrees are authorized, there will be standard operational and instructional costs for the college, but no additional state costs. Since local junior college districts are able to raise local revenue, the schools are not eligible for College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipends for their students. For this reason, the bill will not increase stipend payments from the COF. Since enrollment rates are unknown, the full impact on state expenditures cannot be estimated. Once an authorized degree is offered to new students, growth in the program will increase both state revenue from tuition and operational expenses. This fiscal note assumes that any change in spending authority will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education