



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**STATE**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Note:** This fiscal note is provided pursuant to Joint Rule 22(b)(2), and reflects strike-below Amendment L.001.

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 11-0704	<b>Date:</b> February 16, 2011
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Murray Sen. Spence	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Education
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING EQUALIZING THE AMOUNT OF THE COLORADO OPPORTUNITY FUND STIPEND FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENTS ATTENDING PARTICIPATING PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b> General Fund Appropriation to College Opportunity Fund	See State Expenditures section.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, private institutions of higher education that participate in the College Opportunity Fund (COF) program may receive 50 percent of the stipend amount for their eligible undergraduate students. State supported institutions of higher education receive the full stipend amount for their eligible undergraduate students. Beginning July 1, 2011, this bill allows private institutions of higher education to receive the full stipend amount for their eligible students.

The bill requires that the stipend amount for all eligible students be set by the General Assembly such that the total amount of money appropriated for the COF does not increase as a result of equalizing the stipend amounts.

**State Expenditures**

*This bill will have no impact on the amount of money appropriated by the General Assembly for stipends under the COF program, and no additional appropriation is required.*

In FY 2010-11, the full COF appropriation was approximately \$268.3 million. The appropriation was based on an estimated student FTE of 143,804 eligible undergraduates in state supported institutions and 893 eligible undergraduates in private institutions. The individual stipend amount was \$1,860 for students at state institutions and \$930 for students at private institutions.

The student FTE estimates and stipend amounts for FY 2011-12 have not been set yet in this year's Long Bill; however, assuming a similar amount of students and no change in the total appropriation for COF, there will be 144,697 eligible undergraduate students sharing a total appropriation of \$268,305,930, for a per student stipend amount of \$1,854. This is \$6 less per stipend for each student at state supported institutions, and \$924 more per stipend for each eligible student at a private institution. For the institutions of higher education, each COF stipend allows an eligible student to "buy down" the cost of tuition at the institution. If HB11-1168 is adopted, eligible resident students at state institutions will have an increased out-of-pocket expense for resident tuition; however, the total revenue to state institutions remains unchanged.

### **Departments Contacted**

Higher Education