



Colorado *Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*
NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0104	Date: February 2, 2011
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Hudak; King K. Rep. Murray	Bill Status: Senate Education
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES.

Summary of Legislation

This bill implements the recommendations of the Department of Regulatory Agencies' (DORA) 2010 Sunset Review of the Council of Higher Education Representatives. The bill continues the program indefinitely and removes the requirement for future sunset reviews. The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

Background

In 2001, the General Assembly created the council, which consists of representatives from higher education governing boards, faculty, and students. The council, in cooperation with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), was charged with developing a common course numbering system and defining a process for students to test out of core courses. That program, known as gtPATHWAYS, currently includes more than 500 lower-division general education courses in 20 subject areas approved for guaranteed transfer between public institutions.

The council also negotiates the creation of statewide college degree transfer agreements. Under the agreements, students who complete an associate's degree at a two-year institution and are then accepted into a baccalaureate program at a four-year institution must be enrolled with junior status, and are not required to complete any additional general education credit hours. The council has helped negotiate four existing degree transfer agreements. Legislation passed last year (HB 10-1208) requires the negotiation of 10 more degree transfer agreements by 2016.

Assessment

There are no revenues or expenditures associated with the council's activities. Members are not compensated for their work, paid a *per diem*, or reimbursed for travel. Continuing the activities of the council is not anticipated to create any new revenue or expenses for the schools, or for the CCHE. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education