

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0831 **Date:** March 30, 2011
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Giron; Morse **Bill Status:** Senate Education
 Rep. Swerdfeger; Stephens **Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE ROLE OF CERTAIN SOUTHERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 10, 2011, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2011, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: None.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill changes the role and mission of the Pueblo campus of the Colorado State University (CSU) to permit the school to offer a limited number of graduate programs, including doctoral programs. Current law allows the campus to offer only baccalaureate and master's-level programs. The bill also clarifies the role and mission of the Colorado Springs campus of the University of Colorado to acknowledge that the campus is both a comprehensive baccalaureate and specialized graduate research university.

State Revenue

This bill may increase tuition revenue at CSU-Pueblo. Under current law, the campus may only offer master's-level graduate degrees. If Senate Bill 11-204 is adopted, CSU-Pueblo is permitted to consider additional graduate programs and seek approval from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to offer the new degrees.

If approved, these 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 graduate degree programs will require a level of effort by the schools within the university to establish curriculum and admissions requirements, and to obtain approval from the governing board and the CCHE. These efforts can be met within existing appropriations.

If new degrees are authorized, there will be standard operational costs for the university, but no additional state costs. Since the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipends are available only to undergraduates, additional graduate students will not increase General Fund appropriations for COF.

Since enrollment and tuition rates are unknown, the full impact on state expenditures cannot be estimated. Once an authorized degree program is offered to new students, growth in the program will increase 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