

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note***NO FISCAL IMPACT**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 12-0310	<b>Date:</b> February 1, 2012
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Becker Sen. Nicholson; Spence	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Education <b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FIELDS WITHOUT A STUDENT TRANSFER AGREEMENT.

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill allows a community college to offer a two-year degree program with academic designation in nursing or dental hygiene without a valid student transfer agreement.

**Background**

Academic designation permits a student to choose an academic major while pursuing his or her associate's degree in order to ease transfer between a two-year college and a four-year college. Under current law, an associate's degree with academic designation may only be offered for degree programs that have a valid student transfer agreement.

Community colleges seeking to add academic designation to a degree program must get approval from the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE), and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). Junior colleges seeking to add academic designation to a program must get approval from the school's board of trustees and the CCHE.

**Assessment**

Revising degree programs to include academic designation in nursing and dental hygiene requires some effort by schools to obtain approval from governing boards and from the SBCCOE or the CCHE. These efforts can be met with existing appropriations. The change in law is not anticipated to increase enrollment, and therefore no new revenue or expenditures are anticipated. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

**Departments Contacted**

Higher Education