

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0092	Date: January 9, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Todd Rep. Wilson; May	Bill Status: Senate Education
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

SHORT TITLE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

Summary of Legislation

This bill permits the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) to establish technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs at state-supported community colleges. The SBCCOE may not establish bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree programs. All new bachelor degree programs must be approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). Prior to approving new degree programs, the CCHE must consider whether:

- the SBCCOE can provide data demonstrating workforce and student demand for the degree;
- the accreditation requirements for the new program can be met by the college;
- the new degree program is cost-effective for the student and the community college system; and
- the new degree program can be provided through an existing statewide transfer agreement with an accredited four-year institution in the community college's geographical service area, or with a four-year institution that has a statewide service area.

In addition, the CCHE must determine if the degree program requested by the SBCCOE is sufficiently distinguishable from:

- an existing degree program at a state four-year institution of higher education; or
- a degree program that has been successfully offered previously in conjunction with a state four-year university and which will be reinstated sooner than the newly proposed degree program can be offered by the community college.

The bill establishes similar criteria for the CCHE to determine if Aims Community College may offer bachelor of applied science degrees.

Finally, the bill modifies the role and mission of Western State Colorado University to permit the school to offer basic skills classes.

State Revenue

Higher education tuition revenue. If approved, new undergraduate programs previously unavailable in certain geographic areas may increase overall student enrollment in those areas and, therefore, create additional tuition revenue for some institutions of higher education. Since enrollment and tuition rates are unknown, the full impact on tuition revenue has not been estimated. It should be noted that revenue gains at community colleges may come at the expense of revenue loss at other state universities, as opportunities for postsecondary education become available in previously unavailable markets.

Revenue from tuition is collected and spent by the governing bodies of the state institutions and is not appropriated by the General Assembly in the Long Bill. Due to the enterprise status of these institutions, this revenue is not counted against state revenue limitations in the Colorado Constitution.

State Expenditures

The creation of new undergraduate programs will require an effort by the SBCCOE and the individual community colleges to establish curriculum and admissions requirements and to obtain approval from the CCHE. This process may take up to two years, and is followed by the regional accreditation process, which takes additional time. The effort to create programs and offer these for approval through a multi-year process can be met within the school's existing appropriations.

Once new degrees are authorized, there will be standard operational and instructional costs for the colleges. As college enrollment increases at institutions adding four year-degree programs, pressure is increased on funding levels for College Opportunity Fund stipends. Since future enrollment rates are unknown, the full impact on state expenditures has not been estimated. Once an authorized degree is offered to new students, growth in the program will increase both institutional tuition revenue, operational expenses, and funding levels for stipends.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 6, 2014, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 7, 2014, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education