

NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0727
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Lambert
Rep. Joshi

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Bill Status: Senate Education
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BILL TOPIC: PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION IN HIGHER ED FUNDING

Summary of Legislation

This bill prohibits the General Assembly or the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) from making allocations, appropriations, or distributions of state money to or for the benefit of any public or private institution of higher education, or for students, based solely on the race, color, national origin, or sex of a student. The bill does not apply to American Indian students at Fort Lewis College.

Background

House Bill 14-1319 modified the way the state allocates a portion of the state appropriation for public institutions of higher education. State funding is allocated based on student enrollment through the College Opportunity Fund stipends, and through fee-for-service contracts (FFS) with the governing boards of the institutions. Prior to HB 14-1319, the FFS portion of the allocation was negotiated annually between CCHE and the institutions. HB 14-1319 requires that the FFS portion instead be calculated in a way that acknowledges each institution's unique role and mission, and to reward performance on specific metrics including retention, degree completion, and transfers from two-year community colleges to four-year baccalaureate institutions.

Part of the model developed under HB 14-1319 includes funding for institutions to offset the costs in providing higher education to under-served populations. The model creates incentive for the institutions to increase the number of low-income and minority students served, including allocating an amount for each under-represented minority student served (as part of the role and mission component) and an additional amount for completions and transfers of under represented minority student populations (as part of the performance component).

Assessment

The bill does not change the amount of funding appropriated by the General Assembly for public institutions of higher education. Total funding for the system is determined by the legislature on an annual basis. The allocation suggested by the model developed pursuant to HB 14-1319 is essentially a recommended allocation that the General Assembly may choose to accept or modify; however, the ultimate decision on the amount to appropriate, and the allocation to specific institutions of higher education, remain with the General Assembly. Senate Bill 15-117 does not change this process, it merely places conditions on how the General Assembly chooses to allocate the higher education appropriation. For this reason, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education