

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS  
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF A NURSING TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PILOT PROGRAM.

Prime Sponsors:	Senator Tapia	JBC Analyst:	Eric Kurtz
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**Summary of Amendments Made to the Bill After the 02/09/06 Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note was Prepared (Amended by the Senate Education Committee 02/16/06)**

The Senate Education Committee amendment dated 02/16/06:

1. Transfers administration of the program from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to CollegeInvest;
2. Allows students that earn a degree from or teach at private higher education institutions participating in the College Opportunity Fund program to take part in the program;
3. Allows students with loans that are not eligible for acquisition by CollegeInvest to participate in the program;
4. Allows CollegeInvest to expend money appropriated by the General Assembly for implementing the program, in addition to money allocated to the program by CollegeInvest, gifts, grants and donations;
5. Exempts nursing teachers that leave a qualified position involuntarily from paying the amount already paid or forgiven by CollegeInvest, but requires them to pay any remaining amount due for the loan; and
6. Changes the annual reporting requirement to a biennial reporting requirement.

The 02/09/06 Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note overestimated the number of eligible students based on the introduced bill. However, with the expansions of the eligibility criteria in the Senate Education Committee amendment (items 2 and 3 above), the fiscal impact identified in the 02/09/06 Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note is correct.

**JBC Staff Concurrence with Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note**

**Concurs**                       **Does Not Concur**                       **Updated Analysis**

**Amendments/Appropriation Status**

The bill does not currently include an appropriations clause. Staff has prepared **J.001** (attached) to appropriate \$161,600 General Fund in FY 2006-07 to the Department of Higher Education, for the

Nursing Teacher Loan Forgiveness Fund.

**Sponsor Amendments**

Staff is not aware of any sponsor amendments.

**Points to Consider**

There is a loan forgiveness program for teachers, authorized in Section 23-3.9-102, C.R.S., that is similar to the loan forgiveness program authorized in this bill. The teacher loan forgiveness program is funded with moneys allocated to the program by CollegeInvest. For the nursing loan forgiveness program authorized in this bill, the Department has indicated to staff that they do not intend to allocate money from CollegeInvest. The bill permits the nursing loan forgiveness program, but does not require it. Therefore, the Department can choose not to allocate money from CollegeInvest. Without an allocation of money from CollegeInvest, the bill requires the General Fund appropriation contained in J.001, or there will be no money to operate the program.

This is why the fiscal analysis for this bill identifies a General Fund cost while the fiscal analyses for the bills creating and modifying the teacher loan forgiveness program did not identify a General Fund cost. If the intent of the General Assembly is that the nursing loan forgiveness program be funded with allocations from CollegeInvest, then the nursing loan forgiveness program should be made mandatory.