

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff*  
**STATE**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 06-0312  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Cloer  
 Sen. Tochtrop

**Date:** February 20, 2006  
**Bill Status:** House Health and Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Marc Carey (303 866-4102)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING CREATION OF A NURSING FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08
<b>State Revenues*</b>		
Cash Funds Exempt - Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund		\$456,000
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
General Fund	\$36,000	\$456,000
Cash Funds Exempt - Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund**		456,000
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2006/07:</b> Department of Higher Education: \$36,000 GF and 0.5 FTE.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None		

\* The CCHE is also authorized to accept gifts, grants or donations for credit to the fund.

\*\* This amount includes an additional General Fund appropriation of \$31,800 for administrative costs and \$420,000 for fellowship payments and \$4,200 for the 1 percent authorized to cover program administrative costs.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill creates a Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program to fund qualified nursing faculty positions at Colorado schools of nursing. The program would provide an annual payment of up to \$10,000 for up to 3 years for a qualified position in a nursing school. The bill requires nursing schools to apply to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) for fellowship moneys awarded through the program. In awarding fellowships, CCHE is required to consider:

- the number of qualified positions available at the nursing school and the length of time the openings have gone unfilled;
- recruiting efforts by the nursing school;
- the geographic location of the nursing school; and
- the type of nursing programs offered at the nursing school.

The bill authorizes the CCHE to seek and accept gifts, grants and donations from public or private sources. Fellowship moneys are to be paid from such gifts grants and donations, as well as any moneys appropriated by the General Assembly. Finally, the bill requires CCHE to prepare an annual report to the General Assembly providing an overview of the schools and fellowship recipients involved in the program.

**State Expenditures**

**Nursing Schools.** Based on the number of existing vacancies in nursing programs, an estimated \$420,000 in payments will be made to fund fellowships for persons employed in qualified positions on the nursing faculty. Table 1 summarizes estimated faculty vacancies and annual payments. These payments will begin in FY 2007-08.

<b>Table 1: Eligible Nursing Schools, Faculty Vacancies and Estimated Annual Payments</b>		
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Faculty Vacancies</b>	<b>Estimated Payments</b>
<u>Universities and State Colleges</u>		
University of Colorado	16	\$160,000
Colorado State University*		
University of Northern Colorado	2	2,000
Mesa State College	1	1,000
Metro State College*		
Community Colleges**	15	150,000
Private Institutions***	8	80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>

\* Colorado State University and Metropolitan State College have nursing programs, but information on faculty vacancies has not been provided. Information will be included as it becomes available.

\*\* A total of 12 community and junior colleges offer associate nursing degrees.

\*\*\* A total of 6 private institutions offer associate and baccalaureate nursing degrees.

It should be noted that the above represents minimum payment estimates. First, information on current vacancy levels has not been obtained from all institutions. Second, several institutions indicated that they anticipate the number of vacancies to increase in the near future.

**Department of Higher Education.** The department will require \$36,000 General Fund and 0.5 FTE in FY 2006-07 to develop and implement the program in time for the opening of the program in the 2007-08 academic year. The bill stipulates that the department may expend up to 1 percent of moneys annually appropriated from the Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund for administrative costs, or \$4,200 in FY 2007-08. In FY 2007-08, 1 percent of the fellowship payments will be provided through an appropriation from the Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund, with the remainder (\$31,800) provided through an additional General Fund appropriation.

The bill authorizes the CCHE to seek and accept gifts grants and donations to fund faculty fellowship payments. While these could potentially represent a significant funding source, because none have been identified to date, this fiscal note assumes that fellowship payments and program administrative costs will be covered through appropriations made by the General Assembly.

**State Appropriations**

The Department of Higher Education would require a General Fund appropriation of \$36,000 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2006-07.

**Departments Contacted**

Higher Education

Treasury