

Colorado Legislative Council Staff

STATE
FINAL FISCAL IMPACT
(replaces fiscal impact dated March 17, 2006)

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

Date: May 30, 2006
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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
State Revenues Cash Funds Exempt - Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund	gifts, grants and donations	
State Expenditures Cash Funds Exempt - Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund	gifts, grants and donations	
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Signed into law on April 24, 2006.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2006/07: None		
Local Government Impact: None		

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates a Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program to fund qualified nursing faculty positions at Colorado schools of nursing. The program authorizes an annual payment of up to \$10,000 for up to 3 years for a qualified position in a nursing school, subject to available gifts, grants and donations. 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 Revenues

The amended bill authorizes the CCHE to seek and accept gifts, grants or donations to cover the costs of the program. It is not known at this time how much money will be available through gifts, grants or donations to fund the program.

State Expenditures

Because payments are subject to the receipt of gifts, grants and donations, the bill is assessed as having a conditional fiscal impact.

Nursing Schools. Based on the number of existing vacancies in nursing programs, up to \$420,000 in payments could be made to fund fellowships for persons employed in qualified positions on the nursing faculty, beginning in FY 2007-08. Table 1 summarizes estimated faculty vacancies and annual payments. **These payments are subject to available gifts, grants and donations.**

Table 1: Eligible Nursing Schools, Faculty Vacancies and Estimated Annual Payments		
Institution	Faculty Vacancies	Estimated Payments
<u>Universities and State Colleges</u>		
University of Colorado	16	\$160,000
Colorado State University	0	0
University of Northern Colorado	2	20,000
Mesa State College	1	10,000
Metro State College*		
Community Colleges**	15	150,000
Private Institutions***	8	80,000
Total	42	\$420,000

* Metropolitan State College has a nursing program, 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 information on current vacancy levels has not been obtained from all institutions. Also, several institutions indicated that they anticipate the number of vacancies to increase in the near future.

Department of Higher Education. The amended bill stipulates that the department may expend up to 1 percent of moneys in the Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program Fund for administrative costs. Since it is unknown at this time what gifts grants and donations will be available, it is not known how much will be available to cover administrative costs. This impact is conditional because the amended bill specifies that if available funds are insufficient to implement the program, the program will not be implemented.

State Appropriations

No new appropriations will be required in FY 2006-07.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education

Treasury