

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0625
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Todd
 Rep. Wilson

Date: February 25, 2013
Bill Status: Senate Education
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING AUTHORIZING A LIMITED NUMBER OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES THAT MAY BE OFFERED IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) to establish technical, career and work force development baccalaureate degree programs to be offered at community colleges. Programs established by the SBCCOE must be approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), which may approve up to ten degree programs. In determining whether to approve a new baccalaureate degree program, the CCHE must consider whether the:

- SBCCOE provides data demonstrating demand for the program;
- regional and professional accreditation requirements for the degree program can be met;
- provision of the degree program within the community college system is cost effective;
- and
- degree program is sufficiently distinguishable from degree programs at four-year institutions of higher education in the same geographic service area as the community college offering the proposed degree.

State Revenue

Increase in higher education tuition revenue. If approved, new undergraduate programs previously unavailable in certain geographic areas may increase overall student enrollment and, therefore, create additional tuition revenue for institutions of higher education. Since enrollment and tuition rates are unknown, the full impact on tuition revenue has not been estimated. 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 enterprise status, this revenue is not counted against state revenue limitations in the Colorado Constitution.

State Expenditures

The creation of new undergraduate programs will require a level of effort by the SBCCOE 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 with existing appropriations.

Once new degrees are authorized, there will be standard operational and instructional costs for the colleges. As college enrollment increases with resident students, pressure is placed 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.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education