



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**NO FISCAL IMPACT**

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 13-0662

**Date:** February 22, 2013

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Hudak  
Rep. Hamner

**Bill Status:** Senate Health and Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING AUTHORIZING RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO OFFER A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM AS A PROGRAM OF GRADUATE EDUCATION.

### Summary of Legislation

This bill authorizes Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) to confer a graduate degree on students who complete the physician assistant studies program. The bill takes effect August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

### Assessment

The physician assistant studies program currently exists at RRCC. The program is offered in partnership with St. Francis University in Pennsylvania. This bill allows RRCC to confer a graduate degree directly, instead of via RRCC's partner institution. RRCC already provides the necessary course work and training to prepare participants in the program for the terminal degree, but is precluded from conferring the degree under current law.

Due to requirements of the program's accrediting agency, RRCC is required to confer the degree in order to remain accredited and to continue providing the program. Authorizing RRCC to confer the graduate degree will not change the revenue or expenditure of any institution of higher education, the Department of Higher Education, or any other state agency. For this reason, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

### Departments Contacted

Higher Education

Law