

# MEMORANDUM



## JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Joint Budget Committee/Conference Committee on S.B. 17-254  
FROM John Ziegler, JBC Staff  
DATE April 27, 2017  
SUBJECT Beyond the Scope Amendments to the Long Bill and Changes to Requests for Information

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### RECOMMENDED LONG BILL CHANGES

The following is a list of beyond the scope amendments that JBC staff recommends the Committee adopt for the Long Bill.

**AGRICULTURE:** Corrects a cash fund name in a letternote

**CORRECTIONS:** Increases the appropriation to the Department by \$4,056,720 reappropriated funds to annualize S.B. 17-176, Motor Vehicle License Plate, and pay for additional license plates supplied to the Department of Revenue as required by that bill.

**GOVERNOR:** (1) Adds \$17,877 total funds (cash and reappropriated funds) for the Office of the Governor to correct a technical error in the calculation for the CORE Operations line item. (2) Corrects a technical error in a letternote in the Colorado Energy Office. (3) Corrects a technical error in the Office of the Governor for indirect cost assessment fund types in the Colorado Energy Office and the Colorado Office of Economic Development, increasing cash funds by \$29,854 and decreasing federal funds by the same amount.

**HIGHER EDUCATION:** Corrects language in a Higher Education footnote on higher education tuition increase assumptions.

**HUMAN SERVICES:** Corrects fund source letter notation references to reflect changes in the line item appropriations to the Department of Human Services' Office of Behavioral Health. Makes associated changes in the **JUDICIAL** Department letter notations.

**PERSONNEL:** Adds \$1,000,000 reappropriated funds to provide spending authority for training revenue from state agencies.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Inserts a JBC-approved footnote that was omitted from the introduced bill.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Adds a decimal place to a community corrections per diem rate.

**REGULATORY AGENCIES:** Adds a letternote to the legal services line item in the Executive Director's Office.

**STATE:** (1) Reduces the appropriation for the Payments to OIT line item by \$3,746 cash funds to correct a technical error in calculating common policy decisions. (2) Increases the appropriation for

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the CORE Operations line item by \$883 cash funds to correct a technical error in calculating common policy decisions

**TREASURY:** Adds \$9,081 total funds, including \$4,086 General Fund, for the CORE Operations line item in the Department of Treasury to correct a technical error in calculating common policy decisions.

**CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION:** Renames a line item name in the Capital Construction section of the bill for a public safety communication network project in the Office of the Governor.

## RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

**HIGHER EDUCATION RFI #5:** When the Committee reviewed the list of requests for information, it indicated that some higher education institutions had raised concerns about one of the requests for information that had previously been approved by the Committee during figure setting for the Department of Higher Education. In light of this, staff (Amanda Bickel) has been in communication with the Department and the institutions. Staff believes the following revised language addresses the institutions' concerns while ensuring the Committee receives a report staff believes will be useful. The institutions and the Department have indicated that they are comfortable with the proposed revision.

### *Proposed Revised Wording*

- 1 Department of Higher Education of Higher Education, Colorado Commission on Higher Education - The Department is requested to continue to work with the governing boards and institutions of higher education to further examine, and to the extent practicable improve, the transferability of credits among state institutions and the applicability of these credits to degrees. The goal of this effort is to speed time-to-degree and reduce the costs for obtaining a degree. The Department is requested to provide a written update to the Joint Budget Committee, by November 1, 2017, on its progress on transfer-related issues covered in the December 2016 JBC staff budget briefing and Department January 2017 hearing responses including:
  - Establish a page on the DHE website that points to the electronic databases and tools that most 4-year institutions are already using to show how credits from other institutions transfer to degree requirements;
  - Ensure that institutions post notice of how to file a complaint with the Department at a prominent location on their transfer-related website;
  - Allow career and technical education (CTE) courses to be evaluated against the gtPathways content and competencies to determine if they meet the statewide agreed upon academic requirements. Identify any impediments, such as accreditation, admission requirements, faculty qualifications, etc., that may prevent CTE courses meeting gtPathways requirements from being transferred.

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- Explore changes to the transferrable associates degrees authorized pursuant to Section 23-1-108 (7), C.R.S., to provide for simpler associates degree “meta-majors” that would incorporate the prerequisites for a broader range of 4 year degrees.
- For students whose records were sampled and for whom credits did not transfer, identify, categorize and explain why the credits were not accepted;
- To the extent that it is practicable and would be in the financial interest of the student, offer ideas or policies that could improve the transferability of student credit hours that are not accepted; and
- Determine if there are additional steps that could expand the number of lower division courses automatically transferable across institutions, including concurrent enrollment courses and courses that are not gtPathways.

The report should also identify other initiatives the Department is pursuing that it believes can significantly improve efficiency-to-degree and any Department recommendations for legislation to support such initiatives.