



Legislative  
Council Staff

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FISCAL NOTE

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<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 18-0525	<b>Date:</b>	January 30, 2018
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Buckner; Lundeen Sen. Neville T.; Aguilar	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House Health, Insurance, and Environment
		<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b>	Anna Gerstle   303-866-4375 Anna.Gerstle@state.co.us

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**Bill Topic:** COMMUNITY COLL BACHELOR SCIENCE DEGREE NURSING

<b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill allows community colleges to offer bachelor of science degrees in nursing. The bill impacts state revenue and expenditures for some institutions of higher education on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation  
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note  
Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, community colleges that are part of the state community college system may offer two-year associate's degrees and bachelor of applied science degrees, with limited exceptions. The bill allows a community college to offer bachelor of science degree in nursing.

**Background**

There are fourteen schools that are part of the state community college system, of which 10 currently offer associate's degrees in nursing. The following four-year institutions offer bachelor of science degrees in nursing: University of Northern Colorado, University of Colorado, Metropolitan State University, Colorado State University, Adams State University, Colorado Mesa University, and Colorado Mountain College.

From 2012 to 2017, 3,196 students graduated from the community college system with an associate's degree in nursing. Of those, 56 percent did not subsequently enroll in a four-year school to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing, while 21 percent enrolled in a state four-year institution, 20 percent enrolled in a four-year school out of the state, and 3 percent enrolled in a private school in Colorado.

## **State Revenue**

The bill impacts tuition revenue for certain institutions of higher education, beginning in FY 2019-20. Tuition revenue will increase for any community college that chooses to offer bachelor of science degrees in nursing, depending on the number of students and cost to attend the program. In addition, to the extent that students who currently would transfer to a state four-year institution instead choose to get a bachelor's degree from a community college, tuition revenue will decrease for those four-year institutions. Due to the time it takes for a new degree program to be approved and accredited, the earliest new programs would be available is the fall semester of 2019; as a result, any changes to tuition revenue are not expected until FY 2019-20.

## **State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2018-19, the bill increases costs for community colleges that choose to offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing. The fiscal note assumes that not all community colleges will offer programs, and those that do will cover the cost of the program without a change in state appropriations. Any change in spending authority for tuition revenue will be requested through the annual budget process.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Higher Education