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FISCAL NOTE

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

Bill Topic: COMMUNITY COLL BACHELOR SCIENCE DEGREE NURSING

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, 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.

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