



Legislative
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Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 18-1086

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 18-0525	Date:	June 14, 2018
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Buckner; Lundeen Sen. Neville T.; Aguilar	Bill Status:	Became Law without Signature
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Bill Topic: COMMUNITY COLL BACHELOR SCIENCE DEGREE NURSING

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<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 enacted 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 as a completion degree for students pursuing an associates degree in nursing, and adds the degree to the role and mission of community colleges.

Community colleges must seek approval from the state board for community colleges and occupational education and provide the board with information on its partnerships with existing bachelor's of nursing degree programs. The board must consider student and workforce demand, cost effectiveness for students, and accreditation and licensing requirements when considering a request to offer a bachelor's in nursing degree, and must solicit input on the proposed degree from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) at a joint meeting.

Community colleges that wish to offer a bachelor's of science degree are subject to certain Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) policies, and do not have to seek approval from CCHE to offer the degree. Community colleges must notify CCHE and all institutions of higher education in the state of their intent to seek approval from the board for a bachelor's degree in nursing at least 90 days before submitting the request. All state institutions of higher education that offer a bachelor's degree in nursing must submit an annual report on the degree program to the Department of Higher Education.

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. In addition, the bill increases the workload for the Department of Higher Education by a minimal amount to compile the annual reports submitted by institutions offering bachelor's degrees in nursing.

Effective Date

The bill became law without the Governor's signature on March 24, 2018, and took effect on that date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education