



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1259**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0465

**Date:** July 6, 2016

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Mitsch Bush; Wilson  
Sen. Cooke; Donovan

**Bill Status:** Signed into Law

**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**BILL TOPIC:** CHANGES TO LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE STATUTES

### Summary of Legislation

This bill makes several changes to the Junior College Organization Act. The bill:

- changes all statutory references to "local junior college" or "junior college" to "local district college";
- specifies the procedures by which a local district college board of trustees may take action without holding a regular or special meeting;
- allows a district college board to be either five, seven, nine, or eleven members and permits a board to subsequently increase the number of members; and
- allows a school district or group of school districts that are located entirely within the boundaries of a local district college's service area to petition for annexation into the local college district, where under current law only districts adjacent to the district may petition.

### Background

Colorado currently has two local district junior colleges, Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College (CMC). These institutions are governed by their own separate boards of trustees and each has a defined taxing district which provides a majority of their funding. Due to legislative changes in recent years, both institutions are allowed to offer baccalaureate degrees in addition to their two year and certificate offerings.

### Assessment

The bill does not increase the workload, expenditures, or revenue of any state agency, local government, or institution of higher education. Neither Aims nor CMC use the local district junior college term in any of their marketing materials, signage or other branding, so there are no costs to update a name change.

School districts are not impacted when a local junior college taxing district is expanded; the reference to a school district is required to delineate the boundaries of the proposed addition to a taxing district; however, the actual school district in those boundaries has no fiscal interest, positive or negative if they are added to the district. Joining an existing local district college taxing district requires a vote of taxpayers. For these reasons, this bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

## **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and it took effect on April 21, 2016.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Education

Higher Education