



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB17-1004

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0646 **Date:** August 22, 2017
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Michaelson Jenet; Danielson **Bill Status:** Signed into Law
 Sen. Hill; Garcia **Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY EDUCATION & TRAINING

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue	See State Revenue section.	
State Expenditures General Fund	Workload increase.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing workload increase and tuition revenue decrease.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that each state institution of higher education adopt a policy for assessing and awarding academic credit for college-level learning acquired while in the military. Each policy must:

- use the American Council on Education's (ACE) recommendations, among other sources, to assign credit for military experience;
- provide specific guidance to active military members and veterans in selecting a program of study and optimizing use of the military credit in the student's chosen degree or certificate; and
- beginning June 1, 2018, accept transfer credit from military credit awarded by other state institutions for guaranteed-transfer courses, unless the Colorado Commission on Higher Education adopts a new policy requiring institutions to accept transfer of military credit based on ACE recommendations.

Institutions must grant military credit free of tuition, but may charge a reasonable fee for administering a prior learning assessment. During the 2018 legislative session, the Department of Higher Education (DHE) must report on the adoption and implementation of each institution's policies to the Education and State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committees of the General Assembly.

State Revenue

The bill impacts revenue for the state-supported institutions of higher education beginning in FY 2017-18. Under the bill, institutions must award free course credit for military experience. Tuition revenue will decrease from students who currently pay tuition for courses, and will receive free credit under the bill. The amount of the tuition reduction will depend on the institution's policy, the number of students taking qualified courses at each institution, and tuition rates. The bill also increases revenue by a minimal amount for institutions that assess a fee for a prior learning assessment for military experience.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload for DHE and state institutions of higher education, as discussed below.

Department of Higher Education. The bill increases the workload for DHE in FY 2017-18 to consider a new policy related to the transfer of military credit and report to the General Assembly on the adoption and implementation of the institutions' policies for awarding credit for military experience. The workload increase is expected to be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Institutions of Higher Education. Beginning in FY 2017-18, the bill increases cost and workload for state institutions to adopt and implement a policy for awarding military credit that meets the bills criteria. The scope of the costs and workload vary among institutions, as some already have a policy in place and some will need to create a policy. For state institutions that don't have a current policy, workload increases may require additional FTE to implement the policy.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 1, 2017.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education

Information Technology

Military Affairs