



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0520	Date:	March 9, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Ortiz; Bradfield Sen. Zenzinger; Kirkmeyer	Bill Status:	House Education
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Bill Topic:	IMPROVE HIGHER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY
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Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input 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 requires data collection concerning disabled students and higher education and creates an advisory committee in the Department of Higher Education. The bill increases state workload beginning in FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary:	No appropriation is required.
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Fiscal Note Status:	The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.
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Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and institutions of higher education collect specified data about students with disabilities. The required data includes the number of enrolled students with a disability, whether those students receive services and supports, and graduation and continuation data. The DHE must collect the data for the state as a whole and for each school, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, first-generation status, PELL grant eligibility, and military status. Beginning in 2023, the DHE must report the data during the department's annual SMART Act hearing.

The bill creates the Postsecondary Services Advisory Committee in the DHE to make recommendations to institutions of higher education and the General Assembly concerning necessary services and best practices to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The bill specifies the composition of the 16 members of the committee and specific issues they must examine. The committee must present a report to the education committees of the General Assembly by June 15, 2023, and again by June 15, 2024. The committee is repealed June 30, 2024.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload and costs for institutions of higher education, and for the DHE.

Institutions. Increased workload includes data collection and analysis concerning students who identify as having a disability. Most campuses at institutions of higher education have access to the necessary data; the collection, reporting, and analysis will increase workload only. Other campuses that do not have access to data concerning students with disabilities may need to spend existing appropriations to create the necessary data protocols. This cost is anticipated to be low and has not been estimated.

DHE. The DHE will also have absorbable data collection and reporting costs, in collaboration with the institutions. Additionally, DHE must convene an advisory committee to make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning services for students with disabilities. Members on the committee serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses; however, department workload to coordinate the advisory committee will increase. Assuming the advisory committee meets 6 times in FY 2022-23, staff expenses at the DHE increase by about 120 hours. This increased cost does not require new appropriations.

Governor's Office. The Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions may have increased workload to assist DHE with the required appointments to the advisory committee, including recruiting, vetting, and interviewing potential appointees.

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