

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING MEASURES TO EXPAND THE FORESTRY WORKFORCE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN FORESTRY AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION; CREATING A TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO HELP FUND INTERNSHIPS IN THOSE INDUSTRIES; ALLOCATING GENERAL FUND MONEY TO THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXPANSION AND CREATION OF FORESTRY PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND AT COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE; AND DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER A PROGRAM TO RECRUIT WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION EDUCATORS.

Prime Sponsors: Sens. Jaquez Lewis and Cutter

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Appropriation Items of Note

Appropriation Required, Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 01/19/23.

	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
XXX	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

Section 23-3.3-103 (1), C.R.S., requires that "student financial assistance under [Article 3.3 of Title 23] increase by at least the same percentage as the aggregate percentage increase of all general fund appropriations to institutions of higher education." This bill includes appropriations that will be allocated to institutions of higher education. The additional cost of providing aligned financial aid under Article 3.3 of Title 23, consistent with the provisions of Section 23-3.3-103 (1), C.R.S., is \$362,150 General Fund. Legislative Council Staff concurs with this analysis.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Report (01/26/23) includes amendments to the bill which allow \$1,180,650 for new and expanded forestry programs to be directed to additional higher education institutions; however, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the committee amendments do not change the total fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
J.001	Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
L.004	Bill Sponsor amendment - changes fiscal impact <i>and</i> appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001 Staff has prepared amendment **J.001** (attached) to add a provision appropriating a total of \$1,922,184 to the Department of Higher Education for FY 2023-24, including \$1,545,034 appropriated to the Department for forestry programs created in this bill, \$15,000 to a cash fund accounted for in this department, and \$362,150 for aligned financial aid.

L.004

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.004** (attached) includes the following provisions:

1) For the expansion of forestry and wildfire mitigation degree and certificate programs in section 5 of the bill:

- a) Replaces "state institution of higher education" definition with "public institution of higher education" definition to include state institutions, including community colleges, local district colleges, and area technical colleges, so that these entities may also receive funding through the bill.
- b) Strikes language relating to "one" forestry expansion program and "up to two" new programs and instead allows the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to determine the number of expanded or new programs based on the appropriation;
- c) Refers to "grants" made by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, instead of fee-for-service contracts or grants.

2) Clarifies for several programs in the bill that the money appropriated for various programs for allocation to institutions of higher education does not result in an increase in state money that must be appropriated for financial aid.

3) Specifies that money appropriated to the community college system for recruitment of wildland fire prevention and mitigation educators will be provided through a limited purpose fee-for-service contract

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4) Changes the "petition clause" on the bill to a "safety clause" to enable a transfer required in FY 2022-23.

5) Adds a provision appropriating a total of \$1,560,034 to the Department of Higher Education for FY 2023-24, including \$1,545,034 appropriated to the Department for forestry programs created in this bill and \$15,000 to a cash fund accounted for in this department (with no funding for financial aid).

The Committee may adopt amendment J.001 OR L.004 (which includes an appropriation clause). It should not adopt both J.001 and L.004.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2023-24 based on the March 2023 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes two set-asides for legislation outside of the package: (1) \$30.0 million General Fund for bills that create ongoing obligations; and (2) \$469.0 million for bills that create one-time obligations for FY 2023-24 (see table below).

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2023 Legislation	
Description	FY 2023-24
Legislation with Ongoing Fiscal Impacts	\$30,000,000
Legislation with One-time Fiscal Impacts	
Workforce-related legislation, including free credentials, math scholarships, adult education, and concurrent enrollment	103,000,000
Housing-related legislation, including property tax relief, land use, and public-private partnerships	221,000,000
Legislation related to topics other than workforce and housing, including rural opportunity, line of duty loss, and Proposition 122 implementation	145,000,000
Subtotal	\$469,000,000
TOTAL Placeholders for Other 2023 Legislation	\$499,000,000

The budget package accounts for the 15.0 percent reserve associated with the above placeholders (a total of \$74.9 million).

This bill creates an ongoing obligation and requires General Fund appropriations and transfers of \$1,140,937 if J.001 is adopted or \$1,114,384 if L.004 is adopted for FY 2023-24, reducing the \$30.0 million set aside by the same amount.

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This bill also creates one-time obligations and requires General Fund appropriations of \$1,781,247 for FY 2023-24 and \$1,269,908 for FY 2024-25 (\$3.1 million total) if J.001 is adopted or General Fund appropriations of \$1,445,650 for FY 2023-24 and \$1,030,650 for FY 2024-25 (\$2.5 million total) if L.004 is adopted. This will reduce the \$469.0 million set aside for one-time obligations by either \$3.1 million or \$2.5 million, depending upon which amendment is adopted.