



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-1182	Date:	April 20, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Martinez; Pugliese Sen. Gonzales	Bill Status:	House Judiciary
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Bill Topic: **EXEMPTION FOR COLLEGE PROGRAM COMPLETION EARNED TIME**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill exempts earned time received from an inmate completing a higher education degree from the statutory limit of total earned time an inmate can receive. In future years, the bill may decrease state expenditures.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. Due to time constraints, this analysis is preliminary and may be updated following further review and any additional information received.

Summary of Legislation

[House Bill 23-1037](#) allows inmates sentenced for a nonviolent felony offense to receive additional earned time for completing an accredited degree or other credential awarded by a regionally accredited institution of higher education while the inmate is incarcerated. Specifically, an offender receives 2 years of earned time for a doctoral degree, 1.5 years of earned time for a master’s degree, 1 year of earned time for an associate or baccalaureate degree, and 0.5 year earned time for a certificate or other credential that requires at least 30 credit hours. Generally, an offender cannot reduce their sentence by more than 30 percent. The bill exempts earned time received from completing an accredited degree from the 30 percent statutory limit.

State Expenditures

By removing the limit on earned time for accredited degrees, some eligible offenders will become eligible for parole at an earlier date. To the extent these offenders receive parole earlier, expenditures in the Department of Corrections will decrease. The fiscal not assumes that any impact will be minimal and be addressed through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed, and it applies to earned time awarded on or after that date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).