



## Fiscal Summary

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

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**Measure:** Initiative 81 – ADMISSION TO STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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## Fiscal Summary of Initiative 81

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at [leg.colorado.gov/bluebook](http://leg.colorado.gov/bluebook). This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

### State Revenue and Expenditures

Starting in the 2026-27 academic year, the measure will decrease tuition revenue to certain state institutions of higher education that currently enroll significant numbers of nonresident students. Resident in-state students pay lower tuition rates than nonresident out-of-state and international students, so increasing the share of in-state resident students will decrease tuition revenue for affected institutions. The exact revenue impact will vary by institution, depending on their current admission trends and tuition structure. For example, the University of Colorado – Boulder could lose up to \$42 million in tuition revenue annually if automatically accepted in-state resident students displace the majority of nonresident freshman in an academic year. Tuition revenue will not be affected for institutions that currently admit at least 75 percent in-state resident students.

Increased state funding to institutions of higher education may be required to offset lost tuition revenue. If increased state funding is not provided, institutions of higher education may be required to reduce operational expenditures to align with lower tuition revenue or increase in-state resident tuition rates to offset lost revenue from out-of-state nonresident students. Lastly, workload and costs will increase for institutions of higher education to adjust admission policies to align with the measure.

### Economic Impacts

To the extent that revenues and expenditures for certain institutions of higher education decrease, economic activity associated with those institutions and their communities may decrease. Additionally, if more Colorado students are admitted to higher education programs who would not have otherwise enrolled, educational and economic outcomes may improve for those students.