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**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 18-1114
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Young; Buck
 Sen. Marble; Cooke

Date: July 11, 2018
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: BACHELOR NURSING COMPLETION DEGREE LOCAL DIST COLL

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:** State Revenue TABOR Refund
 State Expenditure Local Government
 State Transfer Statutory Public Entity

The bill permits Aims Community College to offer a bachelor of science completion degree in nursing. The bill increases tuition revenue and expenditures for the local district college.

**Appropriation
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note
Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows Aims Community College (Aims) to offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing as a completion degree for students who have or are pursuing an associate degree in nursing. The college's board of trustees must determine if the degree program serves the needs of the communities within the college's service area. Under current law, Aims only has authority to offer bachelor of applied science degrees.

Background

Colorado currently has two local district colleges, Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College (CMC). These institutions are governed by their own separate boards of trustees and each has a defined taxing district which provides a majority of their funding; however, both schools also receive some state appropriations. Aims currently offers an associates degree in nursing, but does not offer a bachelors degree in nursing. Due to legislative changes in recent years, both schools are allowed to offer other baccalaureate degrees in addition to their two year and certificate offerings.

Local Government Impact

The bill impacts tuition revenue for Aims Community College. Tuition revenue will increase for the college from offering a new bachelor of science completion degree in nursing. Current estimates from Aims suggest that up to 30 students within the college's service area will take advantage of the completion program. These associate degree students cannot obtain a bachelors degree in nursing from Aims and must enroll in other institutions of higher education in order to complete the program requirements for a baccalaureate degree.

Base tuition in the associates nursing program is \$128.75 per credit hour for Colorado resident students who also reside in the college's service area. Other resident students outside the district pay \$226.72. Assuming that all 30 students are residents of the both the state and the district and take the standard full load of 15 credits per semester, new tuition revenue is at least \$115,875 ((30 students X 15 credits = 450 credits) 450 credits X \$128.75 per credit tuition = \$57,937.50 per semester, or about \$115,875 annually. The actual per credit tuition amount has not yet been established by the college.

The bill increases costs for Aims Community College to offer the bachelor of science completion degree in nursing. These costs will be funded with student tuition; there is no other change in revenue or expenditures for the school and no change in state appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 29, 2018.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education