

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning requirements for money appropriated to the department of higher education, and, in connection therewith, making adjustments to appropriations made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year and making an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Senators Amabile; Bridges
Representatives Taggart; Sirota

Date Prepared:

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JBC Analyst:

Louellen Lowe
303-866-2981

Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, No Amendment in Packet

TABOR Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Initial Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/28/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

None.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill contains an appropriation clause that provides \$31.4 million General Fund to the Department of Higher Education for use by the Auraria Higher Education Center. This appropriation is offset by an equal reduction of General Fund appropriations to the Department of Higher Education College Opportunity Fund program fee-for-service contracts for the Metropolitan State University of Denver, the Regents of the University of Colorado, and the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education State System Community Colleges.

Points to Consider

TABOR/ Excess State Revenues Impact

The March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast projects a TABOR surplus liability of \$642.7 million for FY 2025-26 and \$775.8 million for FY 2026-27 to be refunded to taxpayers out of the General Fund. Legislation that decreases non-exempt revenue will decrease the TABOR refund from the General Fund.

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed a budget package for FY 2025-26 based on the March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast. This bill is estimated to decrease revenues by \$31.4 million in FY 2025-26, which will increase the available General Fund in each fiscal year by equal amounts. The JBC has included as part of its FY 2025-26 budget package the decrease in revenues for FY 2025-26 that would result from the passage of this bill.