

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning the continuation of open educational resources policies, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Representative Phillips; Taggart
Senator Frizell; Amabile

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 05/05/26.

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

Amendments in This Packet

J.003 Bill Sponsor amendment - changes fiscal impact and appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause that appropriates \$500,000 General Fund to the Department of Higher Education for FY 2026-27. The appropriation reflects 1.0 FTE.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.003

Bill sponsor amendment **J.003** (attached) changes the existing clause to appropriate \$275,000 General Fund to the Department of Higher Education for FY 2026-27. The appropriation retains 1.0 FTE.

If this amendment is adopted, the appropriation is expected to be used as follows:

Program Components	Cost
Personal Services (1.0 FTE)	\$89,718
Operating Expenses	1,280

Program Components	Cost
OER Council [minimal/absorbed in operating]	0
Conferences & Training	50,000
OER Publishing & Repository	20,500
Grant Program	113,502
Total appropriation	\$275,000

In addition, \$22,845 is estimated to be required for centrally-appropriated staff benefits. No additional money for this purpose is included in the FY 2026-27 appropriation for this bill, consistent with JBC policy.

Points to Consider

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2026-27 based on the March 2026 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes \$42.3 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 13.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2026 Legislation (\$ in millions)

Item	FY 2026-27
SB 26-149 (Pathways for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders)	\$25.9
Potential prison capacity supplemental	5.9
Applied Behavioral Analysis Licensing	5.0
County Administration shared services	3.1
SB 26-042 Revenue Reclass	2.3
Medicaid Working Group	0.5
HB 26-1331 (Modify 2026 Interim Committees)	-0.4
Total - Placeholders for other legislation	\$42.3

General Fund Impact

This bill requires a General Fund appropriation for FY 2026-27 of \$500,000 in its current form or \$275,000 if **J.003** is adopted, reducing the \$42.3 million set aside by the same amount.