



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1038: POSTSECONDARY CREDIT TRANSFER WEBSITE

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Hamrick
Sen. Marchman

Fiscal Analyst:

John Armstrong, 303-866-6289
john.armstrong@coleg.gov

Published for: House Education**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0495**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** January 20, 2025**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Department of Higher Education to develop a website for students that displays information about credits for transfer purposes.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload
- Institutions of Higher Education

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	\$0	\$12,000
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Department of Higher Education (CDHE) to create an online platform that provides current and prospective postsecondary students with information about which credits are transferable to or between state institutions of higher education (IHEs). IHEs are required to provide CDHE with records of transfer credits granted and descriptions of which work-related experiences and prior learning opportunities they will confer academic credit to a student for completing.

The bill specifies which data the online platform must include. CDHE must develop a statewide database to store and organize the information required to be posted on the online platform. Private IHEs may submit data to CDHE for inclusion in the online platform, but they are not required to submit data. CDHE may seek gifts, grants and donations to finance the development of this online platform.

Background & Assumptions

The Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) was created by the General Assembly in 2004 to provide internet services to state and local governments. Many state executive branch and local government agencies use SIPA to distribute information and resources through Colorado.gov and pay SIPA internet service provider fees. SIPA uses these revenues to distribute grant dollars to executive branch agencies for information technology projects.

In December 2024, CDHE was awarded a \$874,000 grant from SIPA for creating, designing and developing a transfer website. This bill codifies the details of the project, while requiring institutions to submit data to CDHE.

The CDHE will use grant funds to hire a Project Manager in FY 2025-26 only to assist in developing the content for the new website and to coordinate with institutions of higher education. CDHE will also contract with a third-party provider for \$754,905 to develop, test, and implement the online platform for use by students. This contract is for FY 2025-26 only. For FY 2025-26, CDHE will use \$12,000 from the grant funds to pay for server costs.

Because the grant has already been awarded, the fiscal note assumes that CDHE will spend grant dollars independent of this bill. If the bill results in future state expenditures for CDHE after grant funds have been exhausted, these resources will be requested through the annual budget process if necessary.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload and costs for the CDHE and Institutions of Higher Education on an ongoing basis, as described below.

Department of Higher Education

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDHE by about \$12,000 per year starting in FY 2026-27. As outlined in the Background and Assumptions section above, the CDHE will have additional expenses in FY 2025-26, funded by grants, to build the new transfer website codified into statute by this bill. Server costs of about \$12,000 per year will be incurred to run the website on an ongoing basis. In future years, workload will also increase in CDHE to coordinate with institutions regarding course data and to maintain the website. It is assumed that this work can be accomplished by existing staff.

Institutions of Higher Education

IHEs will have additional workload to report the required data to CDHE. The increased workload may increase costs for some institutions; however, this fiscal note assumes that CDHE will coordinate with institutions to collect any additional data in a manner that is least burdensome to institutions. If additional resources or staff are required for IHEs, it is assumed that they will fund these expenses within existing institutional revenue streams, without the need for specific state appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

No FY 2025-26 appropriation is required. CDHE expenses related to creation of the new credit transfer database are funded through grants awarded independently from this bill.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education

Information Technology

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](#).