



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB17-1131**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0158

**Date:** June 22, 2017

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Kraft-Tharp; Saine  
Sen. Smallwood; Donovan

**Bill Status:** Signed into Law

**Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

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**BILL TOPIC:** AUTH TO CONTRACT ADMIN COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, the college opportunity fund program (COF) is administered by the Colorado student loan program (College Assist). This bill allows College Assist to contract with the Department of Higher Education (DHE) or another state entity to administer the COF, on or after July 1, 2015.

**Background**

College Assist provides support to student loan borrowers and lenders, as well as guaranty-related services. It is also charged with administering the COF program, which provides a stipend for each in-state undergraduate student in Colorado who attends an institution of higher education in the state. The stipend is paid on a per credit hour basis directly to the institution. For FY 2016-17, the COF stipend is \$75 per semester credit hour for eligible students attending public institutions (\$2,250 for 30 credit hours), and \$37.50 per semester credit hour for eligible students attend private institutions (\$1,125 for 30 credit hours). The COF program is capped at 145 lifetime credit hours per student.

**Assessment**

Effective July 1, 2015, College Assist entered into a memorandum of understanding with the DHE for the administration of the COF. The bill codifies this existing practice into law. As a result, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on March 8, 2017.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Higher Education

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