



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-258

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-1079
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Lundberg
Rep. Rankin

Date: July 18, 2017
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: USING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN HIGHER ED

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017 (current year)	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue			
State Expenditures		\$25,000	
General Fund	Workload increase.	25,000	
Appropriation Required: \$25,000 - Department of Higher Education (FY 2017-18).			
Future Year Impacts: None.			

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Open Educational Resources Council (council) in the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Open educational resources refer to courses, modules, textbooks, videos, tests, software, and other materials that are in the public domain and available to students for free or very low cost. The 13-member council must be appointed by July 1, 2017 and meet for the first time by July 15, 2017. Council members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

The council must work with a third party entity to review and evaluate the extent to which each institution of higher education uses open educational resources, and to identify obstacles and options related to their use. DHE must contract with the entity by August 1, 2017, and the entity must complete a report to the council and DHE by October 20, 2017.

In addition, the council must solicit input from school districts, charter schools, students, institutions of higher education not represented on the council, and representatives of campus bookstores and companies that publish textbooks for postsecondary courses. It must also make recommendations related to initiatives for increasing the use of open educational resources, and determine methods for evaluating those initiatives. The bill identifies initiatives that the council could recommend.

The council must submit a report to the Joint Budget Committee and education committees of the General Assembly by November 20, 2017 that includes the report prepared by the evaluator and recommendations for expanding the use of open educational resources. The bill is repealed July 1, 2018.

State Expenditures

In FY 2017-18 only, the bill increases state General Fund expenditures by \$25,000 in the DHE. Of this, \$20,000 is required to contract with an entity to review the use of open educational resources at institutions of higher education and to evaluate options for and obstacles to increasing the use of those resources. \$5,000 is required for council expenses, including the reimbursement of member travel expenses.

The bill increases the workload for DHE to appoint members to the council in FY 2016-17, as well as for institutions of higher education and the Colorado Department of Education to have a representative serve on the council in FY 2017-18. The workload increase is minimal and does not require a change in appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 3, 2017.

State Appropriations

Consistent with this fiscal note, the bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$25,000 to the Department of Higher Education for FY 2017-18.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Higher Education