

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7298
BILL NUMBER: SB 460

DATE PREPARED: Jan 8, 2002
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Review of new higher education programs.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chuck Mayfield
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FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill removes the authority of the Commission for Higher Education to approve new academic degree programs.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill removes the authority of the Commission to approve or disapprove new academic degree programs. Universities offer between 2,200 and 2,300 degree programs. The Commission receives about 80 requests annually for new programs and acts on about 50 to 60 of the requests per year. There would probably be no savings for the Commission due the elimination of the approval process. The review of programs is done by 5 or 6 people and equates to about 2/3 of a person on a full-time equivalent basis.

The state could experience increased costs if several universities start similar high-cost degree programs at the same time.

Universities could experience some reduced costs associated with the starting of a new program if they no longer have to have the Commission's approval before implementing a new degree program.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Higher Education Commission, State Universities.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Kent Weldon, Higher Education Commission, 464-4400.