

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

Conference Committee

*This Unproofed and Unofficial Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the First House, Second House, and the Conference Committee*

LLS NO. 18-0811.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 18-085

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd, Coram, Merrifield, Zenzinger

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McLachlan,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING PROVIDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR EDUCATORS TO**
102 **WORK IN RURAL AREAS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Current law allows the department of higher education to provide up to 20 financial stipends annually, not to exceed \$6,000 each, to teachers in rural schools or school districts (rural schools) who are seeking certification as a national board certified teacher, seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher, or furthering their

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

professional development plan through continuing education, and who commit to employment in a rural school for a minimum of 3 years. The bill increases the number of available stipends to 60 and expands it to include teachers completing an approved alternative licensure program leading to initial licensure and full-time employment in a rural school or board of cooperative services that serves rural schools and individuals completing the required course work leading to certification as a special services provider and employment in a rural school or a board of cooperative services that serves rural schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-101 as
3 follows:

4 **23-76-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 finds that:

6 (a) Teachers have a great impact on student achievement.
7 Evidence shows that ~~teacher~~ THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS can account for the
8 majority of variances in student learning and test scores.

9 (b) The teaching and learning conditions under which teachers
10 practice their profession, though often overlooked, are essential elements
11 to student achievement and ~~teacher~~ retention. These conditions must be
12 systematically studied and addressed for Colorado to develop a critical
13 mass of teachers who are well prepared to teach and who will remain in
14 hardest-to-staff schools long enough to make a significant difference for
15 students and their families.

16 (c) Research ~~also~~ demonstrates that the negative effects of ~~teacher~~
17 shortages ~~and~~ OF TEACHERS AND SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, AS WELL
18 AS distribution challenges, have a disproportionate impact on geographic
19 areas of the state that are classified as "rural". ~~leaving~~ AS A RESULT,
20 children in ~~those~~ RURAL areas ARE more likely to be taught by fewer

1 teachers who must cover an increasingly larger number of subjects AND
2 HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO CRITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED BY
3 SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS.

4 (d) APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS
5 ARE CRITICAL FOR FILLING TEACHER SHORTAGES IN RURAL SCHOOLS AND
6 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO. RURAL SCHOOL LEADERS ARE
7 ABLE TO PLACE QUALIFIED TEACHER CANDIDATES, INCLUDING MEMBERS
8 OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, IN CLASSROOMS THROUGH THESE
9 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS
10 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND COACHING TO AN INDIVIDUAL
11 DURING HIS OR HER YEAR-LONG TRAINING AND ALLOW ALTERNATIVE
12 TEACHER CANDIDATES TO EARN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE WHILE
13 SERVING IN CLASSROOMS. BY HELPING TO FILL IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN
14 HARD-TO-STAFF RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND BY
15 RECEIVING THE NECESSARY TRAINING, ALTERNATIVE TEACHER
16 CANDIDATES ARE ABLE TO CREATE A POSITIVE, LONGITUDINAL IMPACT ON
17 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

18 (e) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION
19 PATHWAYS IN COLORADO, THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER
20 CANDIDATES HAS INCREASED STEADILY, WITH ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR
21 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CANDIDATES NOW COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE
22 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM.

23 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that, for
24 purposes of section 17 of article IX of the state constitution,
25 implementation of measures designed to improve ~~teacher~~ THE quality,
26 recruitment, and retention OF TEACHERS AND SPECIAL SERVICES
27 PROVIDERS in the rural areas of Colorado through this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 76

1 is a critical element of accountable education reform, accountable
2 programs to meet state academic standards, and performance incentives
3 for teachers AND SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS and, therefore, may
4 receive funding from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of
5 article IX of the state constitution.

6

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76-102, **amend**
8 the introductory portion; and **add** (5) as follows:

9 **23-76-102. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 76, unless
10 the context otherwise requires:

11 (5) "SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER" MEANS A PERSON, OTHER THAN
12 A TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR, WHO PROVIDES
13 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF AN INSTRUCTIONAL
14 PROGRAM. "SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS" INCLUDES SPEECH LANGUAGE
15 PATHOLOGISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, AUDIOLOGISTS, OCCUPATIONAL
16 THERAPISTS, PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, COUNSELORS, NURSES, AND SOCIAL
17 WORKERS.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-106 as
19 follows:

20 **23-76-106. National board certified teacher stipends -**
21 **concurrent enrollment stipends.** (1) The department of higher
22 education shall annually provide up to ~~twenty~~ SIXTY financial stipends,
23 not to exceed six thousand dollars each, to any:

24 (a) Teacher in a rural school or school district who is seeking
25 certification as a national board certified teacher;

26 (b) TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO IS
27 seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher ~~or is a teacher~~

1 ~~furthering his or her professional development plan through continuing~~
2 ~~education.~~ AND WHO NEEDS ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK OR CREDENTIALS
3 TO OBTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION;

4 (c) TEACHER COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM
5 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
6 60.5 OF TITLE 22 THAT LEADS TO INITIAL LICENSURE IN THE STATE OF
7 COLORADO AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A TEACHER IN A RURAL
8 SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS; OR

9 (d) INDIVIDUAL SEEKING TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED COURSE
10 WORK LEADING TO CERTIFICATION AS A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER AND
11 EMPLOYMENT IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS
12 PROVIDING SERVICES TO RURAL SCHOOLS.

13 (1.5) IF IN ANY ONE FISCAL YEAR, THE NUMBER OF STIPEND
14 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION EXCEEDS THE
15 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STIPENDS AVAILABLE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
16 EDUCATION SHALL GIVE PRIORITY FOR STIPEND AWARDS TO TEACHERS.
17 AFTER ALL TEACHER APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN FUNDED, STIPENDS MAY
18 THEN BE AWARDED TO SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, SUBJECT TO
19 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS.

20 (2) The stipends may be used to offset application fees, evaluation
21 costs, tuition costs, and any ADDITIONAL costs associated with ~~continuing~~
22 ~~education that are~~ OBTAINING INITIAL LICENSURE OR in support of a
23 teacher's OR SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER'S professional development
24 plan; EXCEPT THAT THE STIPENDS MAY ONLY BE USED TO OFFSET COSTS
25 ASSOCIATED WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR AN
26 ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE STATE
27 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

1 (3) The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent
2 practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration
3 the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state.

4 (4) A teacher OR A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER who receives
5 a stipend pursuant to this section must commit to ~~teach for a total~~ BECOME
6 OR REMAIN EMPLOYED IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
7 SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR A MINIMUM
8 of three years. ~~in his or her rural school or school district.~~

9 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2018-19 state fiscal
10 year, \$240,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This
11 appropriation is from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) (a)
12 of article IX of the state constitution. The department may use this
13 appropriation for transfer to the department of higher education for rural
14 teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development.

15 (2) For the 2018-19 state fiscal year, \$240,000 is appropriated to
16 the department of higher education. This appropriation is from
17 reappropriated funds received from the department of education under
18 subsection (1) of this section. To implement this act, the department of
19 higher education may use this appropriation for rural teacher recruitment,
20 retention, and professional development.

21 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
22 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
23 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
24 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a
25 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
26 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
27 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect

1 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
2 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.