

CHAPTER 269

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 18-1309

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also SENATOR(S) Hill, Aguilar, Cooke, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lundberg, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Priola, Scott, Tate, Todd, Grantham.

AN ACT

**CONCERNING PROGRAMS ADDRESSING EDUCATOR SHORTAGES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-60.5-208.5** as follows:

22-60.5-208.5. Grow your own educator program - authorization - duties - rules - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (1) (a) **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:**

(I) **COLORADO IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD;**

(II) **ENSURING THAT EACH CLASSROOM HAS A QUALIFIED, WELL-TRAINED EDUCATOR IS CRITICAL TO GUARANTEEING THAT COLORADO'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM REMAINS COMPETITIVE BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY; AND**

(III) **A SHORTAGE OF EDUCATORS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE JEOPARDIZES COLORADO'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN EDUCATION DELIVERY.**

(b) **THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CREATE A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM TO:**

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(I) DEVELOP A PIPELINE FOR CONSISTENT RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT OF EDUCATORS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE;

(II) MAKE THE TRAINING AND PREPARATION OPTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO FUTURE EDUCATORS RELEVANT, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE STATEWIDE;

(III) DEVELOP "HOMEGROWN" SOLUTIONS TO INCENTIVIZE FUTURE EDUCATORS TO STAY IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY WERE RAISED;

(IV) WORK WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP LOCAL SOLUTIONS CUSTOMIZED TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES;

(V) FACILITATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT COMBINE TRADITIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION CURRICULA WITH EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION TO GIVE FUTURE EDUCATORS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AS TEACHERS OF RECORD WORKING DIRECTLY IN SCHOOLS; AND

(VI) CREATE A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO ORGANIZING AND FACILITATING EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND TRAINING THAT PROVIDES FOR THE LICENSURE OF EDUCATORS, THEREBY ALLEVIATING COLORADO'S EDUCATOR SHORTAGE AND ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION DELIVERED IN COLORADO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "CHARTER SCHOOL" MEANS A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22 OR A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22.

(b) "PROGRAM" MEANS A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(c) "TEACHER OF RECORD" MEANS A PERSON LICENSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-201 (1)(a.5).

(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL CREATE THE FRAMEWORK FOR A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM THAT, AT A MINIMUM, MUST INCLUDE:

(a) ENROLLMENT IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM AND COMPLETION OF NOT LESS THAN THE FINAL THIRTY-SIX CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED BY THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM;

(b) EMPLOYMENT UNDER A TEACHER OF RECORD LICENSE FOR A POSITION FOR WHICH NO OTHER QUALIFIED, LICENSED TEACHER HAS APPLIED WITH A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE;

(c) PAYMENT BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE EDUCATOR'S

IN-STATE TUITION FOR NO MORE THAN THE FINAL THIRTY-SIX CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM, WITH THE GRANT PROGRAM LIMITED TO UP TO FIFTY NEW STUDENTS PARTICIPATING ANNUALLY;

(d) THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE EDUCATOR WORK IN THE SAME SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THREE ACADEMIC YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, UNLESS WAIVED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL, AS A CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF THE EDUCATOR'S TUITION FOR THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(e) THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ATTENDED BY THE TEACHER OF RECORD PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY SUPPORT AND MENTORING THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, WHICH SUPPORT AND MENTORING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SUPPORT FROM PREPARATION PROGRAM FACULTY, QUARTERLY CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS AND FEEDBACK, PERIODIC ANALYSIS OF STUDENT DATA, AND FORMAL EVALUATIONS OF TEACHER PROGRESS.

(4) A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ONE OR MORE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE THE COURSES AND NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS THAT A STUDENT MUST COMPLETE BEFORE AND WHILE THE STUDENT IS A TEACHER OF RECORD WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE TIME AND SUPPORT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE THE TEACHER OF RECORD TO COMPLETE THE COURSE WORK, AND ANY TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM OR TEACHER SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE STUDENT WHILE THE STUDENT IS A TEACHER OF RECORD.

(5) A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A STUDENT WHO PARTICIPATES AS A TEACHER OF RECORD WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

(a) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL INCLUDE THE TEACHER OF RECORD IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TEACHER MENTORSHIP, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S INDUCTION PROGRAM, AND OTHER SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WHILE THE TEACHER OF RECORD COMPLETES THE PROGRAM AND DURING THE REQUIRED THREE ACADEMIC YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE;

(b) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE STUDENT APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND STIPEND PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF ARTICLE 18 OF TITLE 23, IF ELIGIBLE, AND ANY FEDERAL OR STATE NEED-BASED OR MERIT-BASED FINANCIAL AID FOR WHICH THE STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE; AND

(c) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PAY THE STUDENT'S IN-STATE TUITION AT THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER

EDUCATION TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM, NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-SIX CREDIT HOURS. THE TUITION PAYMENT MUST BE REPAID BY THE STUDENT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL, UNLESS WAIVED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL, IF THE STUDENT DOES NOT COMPLETE THE PROGRAM, DOES NOT COMPLETE THE REQUIRED THREE ACADEMIC YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, OR BECOMES INELIGIBLE FOR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PURSUANT TO STATE OR FEDERAL LAW. FOR EACH ACADEMIC YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT AFTER THE STUDENT COMPLETES THE PROGRAM, THE STUDENT IS CREDITED WITH REPAYMENT OF TWELVE CREDIT HOURS OF THE TUITION PAID BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE STUDENT COMPLETES THE REQUIRED THREE ACADEMIC YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE THE TERMS FOR REPAYMENT OF THE TUITION PAYMENT, IF APPLICABLE.

(6) (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR GRANTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT EMPLOYS A STUDENT AS A TEACHER OF RECORD DURING THE PROGRAM. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, GRANT FUNDING IS LIMITED TO UP TO FIFTY NEW STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM ANNUALLY. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY FROM AN APPROPRIATION MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR GRANTS IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL USE THE GRANT TO PAY FOR THE COST OF UP TO THIRTY-SIX CREDIT HOURS OF THE STUDENT'S SHARE OF IN-STATE TUITION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102, LESS ANY AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE STUDENT IN FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID AND COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND STIPENDS, TO THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED.

(II) EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT EMPLOYS A STUDENT AS A TEACHER OF RECORD IN THE PROGRAM SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR AND THE NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS GRANTED TO EACH PARTICIPANT. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE MAY HIRE NO MORE THAN TWO STUDENTS PER YEAR AS TEACHERS OF RECORD PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS LIMIT, DISTRICT-AUTHORIZED CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE CONSIDERED PART OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE AND ITS AUTHORIZED INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE CONSIDERED A SINGLE DISTRICT.

(b) IN DISTRIBUTING GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FIRST PRIORITIZE GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT EMPLOY A STUDENT WHO GRADUATED FROM A COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL AND WHO COMMITS TO TEACHING IN A COMMUNITY THAT IS EXPERIENCING A TEACHER SHORTAGE IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL THEN PRIORITIZE GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT EMPLOY A STUDENT WHO COMMITS TO TEACHING IN A RURAL SCHOOL WITH A TEACHER SHORTAGE IN A GRADE LEVEL OR CONTENT AREA, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(7) (a) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30 IN ANY YEAR IN WHICH A GRANT IS AWARDED PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, INFORMATION RELATING TO THE PROGRAM, WHICH INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

(I) THE NUMBER OF GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND THE NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS WITH WHOM THE STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED;

(II) THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ATTENDED BY THE STUDENTS;

(III) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO FULFILL THE PROGRAM'S THREE-YEAR TEACHING COMMITMENT, UNLESS WAIVED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL, AND THE PERCENTAGE RETAINED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL BEYOND THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD; AND

(IV) DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION RELATING TO STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM TO GAUGE THE SUCCESS AT RECRUITING DEMOGRAPHICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION IN EACH YEAR GRANTS ARE AWARDED PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM.

(8) (a) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

(b) BEFORE ITS REPEAL, THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES SHALL REVIEW THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-104.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **add** (24)(a)(IX) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal.
(24) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2023:

(IX) THE GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM, AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-208.5.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-60.5-208.7 as follows:

22-60.5-208.7. Teacher of record program - rules - authorization - definition.
(1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

(2) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT A ONE- OR TWO-YEAR TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM AND MAY ONLY EMPLOY A TEACHER OF RECORD IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE IS A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE AND IF THERE ARE NO OTHER QUALIFIED, LICENSED APPLICANTS FOR A VACANT POSITION. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH RULES AND POLICIES GOVERNING A TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(3) A STUDENT EMPLOYED IN A TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL HOLD A TEACHER OF RECORD LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-201 (1)(a.5).

(4) TO ASSIST THE TEACHER OF RECORD IN MEETING THE PERFORMANCE-BASED TEACHER LICENSURE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-109 (3), A TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

(a) DIRECT AND REGULAR SUPERVISION BY MENTOR TEACHERS;

(b) PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS; AND

(c) THE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM OR TEACHER SUPPORT SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO TEACHERS OF RECORD AS AGREED UPON BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER AND THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(5) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MUST INCLUDE THE TEACHER OF RECORD IN THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S INDUCTION PROGRAM AND OTHER SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER. IF THE TEACHER OF RECORD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES AN INDUCTION PROGRAM, THE TEACHER OF RECORD MAY APPLY COMPLETION OF THE INDUCTION PROGRAM TOWARD MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSE.

(6) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL TREAT A TEACHER OF RECORD AS A FIRST-YEAR TEACHER FOR PURPOSES OF COMPENSATION AND PLACEMENT ON A TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE.

(7) (a) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, INFORMATION RELATING TO TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAMS, WHICH INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

(I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS WITH WHOM THE STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED;

(II) THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ATTENDED BY THE STUDENTS;

(III) THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITHIN THE TWO-YEAR TEACHER OF RECORD LICENSE PERIOD; AND

(IV) DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION RELATING TO STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN A TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM TO GAUGE THE SUCCESS AT RECRUITING DEMOGRAPHICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION IN EACH YEAR IN WHICH STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAMS.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-201, **amend** (1)(b)(I) introductory portion and (1)(b)(I)(B); and **add** (1)(a.5) as follows:

22-60.5-201. Types of teacher licenses issued - term - rules. (1) The department is designated as the sole agency authorized to issue the following teacher licenses to persons of good moral character:

(a.5) **Teacher of record license.** (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A TEACHER OF RECORD LICENSE TO AN APPLICANT WHO:

(A) IS ENROLLED IN AN ACCEPTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALL, OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL, OF THE COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF A BACHELOR'S DEGREE BUT HAS NOT YET COMPLETED TEACHING FIELD WORK REQUIREMENTS;

(B) IS ENROLLED IN A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-208.5, OR IN A ONE-OR TWO-YEAR TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-208.7; AND

(C) THE APPLICANT IS OR WILL BE EMPLOYED IN A POSITION FOR WHICH NO OTHER QUALIFIED, LICENSED TEACHER HAS APPLIED BY A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-208.7 (1), THAT DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE.

(II) A TEACHER OF RECORD LICENSE IS VALID FOR TWO YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE AND CAN ONLY BE RENEWED ONE TIME IF THE HOLDER DID NOT COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES OR HARDSHIP.

(III) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH THE COMPETENCIES AND STANDARDS NECESSARY FOR A TEACHER OF RECORD TO BE EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL.

(b) **Initial teacher license.** (I) Except as otherwise provided in ~~subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION, the department, in its discretion, may issue an initial teacher license to any applicant who:

(B) Has completed an approved program of preparation for teachers, ~~or a one-year or two-year alternative teacher program, or a GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-208.5;~~

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-202, **amend** (2)(b) as follows:

23-18-202. College opportunity fund - appropriations - payment of stipends - reimbursement - report. (2) (b) (I) For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2005, and for state fiscal years thereafter, for an eligible undergraduate student attending a state institution of higher education, the specified amount of the stipend per credit hour ~~shall be~~ is an amount set annually by the general assembly, which in no case shall exceed the student's total in-state tuition. The value of the per credit hour stipend ~~shall be~~ is the same for each eligible undergraduate student, regardless of the state institution of higher education that the student attends. The student ~~shall be~~ is responsible for paying the student's share of total in-state tuition, if any.

(II) If the student is enrolled in a pathways in technology early college high school pursuant to article 35.3 of title 22, ~~C.R.S.~~, the p-tech school ~~shall be~~ is responsible for paying the student's share of total in-state tuition, if any.

(III) IF THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-208.5, AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVES A GRANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-208.5 (6), THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT EMPLOYS THE STUDENT AS A TEACHER OF RECORD AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-60.5-201 (1)(a.5) DURING THE TEACHING PORTION OF THE GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE STUDENT'S SHARE OF TOTAL IN-STATE TUITION, NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-SIX CREDIT HOURS, LESS ANY AMOUNT RECEIVED IN FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-91-102, **amend** (6) as follows:

22-91-102. Definitions. As used in this article 91, unless the context otherwise requires:

(6) "School counselor" means a person who holds a special services provider license with a school counselor endorsement issued pursuant to article 60.5 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 22 or who is otherwise endorsed or accredited by a national association to provide school counseling services. "SCHOOL COUNSELOR" INCLUDES A PERSON WHO HOLDS A SPECIAL SERVICES INTERN AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-111 (3).

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-111, **amend** (3) as follows:

22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications - rules. (3) (a) **Special services intern authorization.** The department of education may issue an intern authorization to an applicant who holds at least a bachelor's degree from an accepted institution of higher education and who is enrolled in an approved program of preparation for a special services provider that requires completion of an internship. A person employed under an intern authorization shall work under the supervision of a person who holds a professional special services provider license. A school district may pay a person who is employed under an intern authorization. An intern authorization is valid for one academic year and may not be renewed.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY RENEW AN INTERN AUTHORIZATION FOR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR IF THE SPECIAL SERVICES INTERN IS EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES AND THE

INTERN HAS NOT COMPLETED THE APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION FOR A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES OR HARDSHIP.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-96-102, **amend** (3) as follows:

22-96-102. Definitions. As used in this article 96, unless the context otherwise requires:

(3) "School health professional" means a state-licensed or state-certified school nurse, psychologist, social worker, counselor, or other state-licensed or state-certified ~~health~~ professional qualified under state law to provide support services to children and adolescents.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-20-140 as follows:

23-20-140. Partnership for rural education preparation - report. (1)(a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(I) THERE IS A TEACHER SHORTAGE ACROSS THE STATE, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS, WHICH JEOPARDIZES COLORADO'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN EDUCATION DELIVERY;

(II) THERE ARE VARIOUS CAUSES OF THE TEACHER SHORTAGE; AND

(III) THERE ARE RESOURCES AVAILABLE, AND POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE, THAT COULD HELP ALLEVIATE THE TEACHER SHORTAGE; HOWEVER, DUE TO THE UNIQUE CAUSES OF TEACHER SHORTAGES ACROSS THE STATE, THERE IS A NEED FOR COLLABORATION TO CONNECT LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS WITH RESOURCES TO DEVELOP CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS.

(b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT THE CREATION OF A PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL EDUCATION IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO REDUCE TEACHER SHORTAGES IN COLORADO.

(2) THERE IS CREATED THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL EDUCATION PREPARATION ON THE DENVER CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "PARTNERSHIP", TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO BRING CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO ADDRESS TEACHER SHORTAGES. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, AND IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, THE PARTNERSHIP SHALL WORK WITH IDENTIFIED LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO:

(a) REGULARLY COLLECT AND REPORT DATA ON THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED HIRING NEEDS FOR THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER, INCLUDING TURNOVER TRENDS, FOR TEACHERS BY GEOGRAPHIC AND CONTENT AREA;

(b) DETERMINE THE CAUSES OF TEACHER SHORTAGES;

(c) IDENTIFY AVAILABLE AND POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES THAT ALIGN SUPPLY AND DEMAND WHEN ADDRESSING THE TEACHER SHORTAGES;

(d) CONNECT THESE RESOURCES TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THROUGH CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS TARGETED TO THE SPECIFIC CAUSES OF THE TEACHER SHORTAGE FOR THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER;

(e) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, IDENTIFY METHODS FOR IMPROVING DIVERSITY OF TEACHERS; AND

(f) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S CUSTOMIZED SOLUTION.

(3) THE PARTNERSHIP SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR EACH YEAR IN WHICH THE PARTNERSHIP IS OPERATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, CONCERNING DATA COLLECTED AND STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED BY THE PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS TEACHER SHORTAGES ACROSS THE STATE.

(4) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 23-1-104 (1) TO THE CONTRARY, THE APPROPRIATION OF MONEY FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION IS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE SINGLE LINE ITEM APPROPRIATION TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

SECTION 10. Appropriation. (1) For the 2018-19 state fiscal year, \$1,019,110 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 0.3 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the grow your own educator program created pursuant to section 22-60.5-208.5, C.R.S.

(2) For the 2018-19 state fiscal year, \$156,116 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the partnership for rural education preparation created in section 23-20-140 (2), C.R.S.

SECTION 11. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 29, 2018