

CHAPTER 48

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 19-009

BY SENATOR(S) Todd, Coram, Bridges, Court, Crowder, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Foote, Ginal, Gonzales, Hisey, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Sonnenberg, Story, Tate, Williams A., Winter, Zenzinger, Garcia; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McLachlan and Wilson, Arndt, Bird, Bockenfeld, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Catlin, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Galindo, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Kennedy, Kipp, Liston, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton, Roberts, Singer, Snyder, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Becker.

AN ACT

CONCERNING PROVIDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR EDUCATORS TO WORK IN RURAL AREAS.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend 23-76-104** as follows:

23-76-104. Student teachers in rural areas - financial incentives. ~~Beginning January 1, 2017~~ **SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS,** the department of higher education shall provide ~~up to forty~~ financial stipends annually, not to exceed ~~two thousand eight hundred~~ **FOUR THOUSAND** dollars per student, to offset tuition costs for individuals in approved educator preparation programs who agree to student teach in a rural school or rural school district of the student teacher's choice. The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state. Money for the stipends must be allocated from the department of higher education to the institution of higher education to be credited to the student's account. A student teacher who receives a financial stipend pursuant to this section must agree to work in a rural school or rural school district for at least two years, unless he or she can demonstrate extenuating circumstances that such employment would impose a hardship on him or her. If a recipient of a financial stipend awarded pursuant to this section does not accept an offer of employment to teach in a rural school or rural school district after the completion of his or her student teaching, he or she may, as determined by the department of education on a case-by-case basis, reimburse the department of higher education for two-thirds of the amount of the financial stipend that he or she received. If a recipient of a financial stipend awarded pursuant to this section accepts an offer of employment to teach in a rural school or

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rural school district but only teaches in a rural school or rural school district for one year and not the required two years, he or she may, as determined by the department of education on a case-by-case basis, reimburse the department of higher education for one-third of the amount of the financial stipend he or she received.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76-106, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1.5) as follows:

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

(1.5) If in any one fiscal year, the number of stipend applications submitted pursuant to this section exceeds the total amount of APPROPRIATED FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR FOR stipends available AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, the department of higher education shall give priority for stipend awards to teachers. After all teacher applications have been funded, stipends may then be awarded to special services providers, subject to available appropriations.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: March 25, 2019