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HB 20-1128

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0591 Date: January 28, 2020
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Buentello; Wilson Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: EDUCATOR EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, School District, Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires that educators complete professional development related to students with disabilities in order to renew a professional educator license. The bill increases state workload and school district expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, 90 clock hours of professional development are required to renew a professional educator license. The State Board of Education (SBE) establishes minimum criteria for professional development activities, and individual educators may select the professional development that fulfills certain goals and topics and meets the requirements of their license.

The bill also requires that alternative teacher programs, alternative principal programs, and educator preparation programs include coursework on individualized education programs, ChildFind, effective special education classroom practices, and federal laws related to individuals with disabilities.

Background

Professional licenses include teacher, principal, special service provider, and administrator licenses, and are valid for five years. To hold a professional license, educators must meet the requirements for an initial teaching license, and have either completed an induction program or received a waiver from the SBE.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload for Colorado Department of Education (CDE), CCHE, and institutions of higher education. No change in appropriations is required.

Colorado Department of Education. The bill increases workload for CDE to conduct rulemaking and provide additional guidance to licensees on fulfilling professional development that meets the requirements in the bill and SBE rules. The workload is expected to be minimal.

Higher education. The bill increases workload for the CCHE to ensure that approved educator preparation programs include the required coursework, and for institutions of higher education to modify their course offerings to meet CCHE standards and the bill's requirements. To the extent that CCHE requires changes to curricula, costs may also increase for institutions.

School District

The bill increases costs for school districts that modify their current professional development support. Some districts provide professional development courses, while other districts reimburse an educator for professional development costs, hire outside consultants, or compile materials in house. District estimates to include the training specified in the bill range from \$8,000 to \$600,000, depending on their current professional development structure and offerings. Costs will vary significantly by district and may include contracting, content development, staff time or travel, substitute teachers, or reimbursement to educators.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Higher Education

School Districts