



Legislative Council Staff

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HB 20-1312

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0663
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet; Titone; Sen. Todd; Hisey

Date: March 2, 2020
Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS EDUCATOR LICENSE

- 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 behavioral health training in order to obtain an 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 hours of professional development are required to renew a professional educator license. The bill requires that at least 10 of those hours include behavioral health training that is culturally responsive and trauma- and evidence-informed.

The bill also requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to ensure that each teacher candidate in an initial educator licensure program completes at least one semester- or quarter-length course in behavioral health training.

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 State Board of Education.

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, provide additional guidance to licensees on fulfilling professional development requirements, and ensure that educator preparation program meet course requirements. No change in appropriations is required.

Higher education. The bill increases workload for the CCHE to ensure that 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 to 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. Current estimates of district costs 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