

CHAPTER 398

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

HOUSE BILL 24-1290

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Bradfield and Kipp, Amabile, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, Duran, English, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hernandez, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Marvin, Mauro, McLachlan, Ortiz, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Valdez, Weissman, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie;
also SENATOR(S) Zenzinger, Bridges, Coleman, Exum, Ginal, Gonzales, Jaquez Lewis, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Priola, Winter F., Fenberg.

AN ACT

CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO REDUCE FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE EDUCATOR WORKFORCE THROUGH THE STUDENT EDUCATOR STIPEND PROGRAM, 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, 23-3.9-302, **add (5)** as follows:

23-3.9-302. Student educator stipend program - created - guidelines - appropriation - legislative declaration - definition - repeal. (5)(a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MONEY FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND TO FUND STIPENDS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL TRANSFER SPENDING AUTHORITY FROM THE APPROPRIATION MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (5)(a) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT, FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AWARDED STIPEND MONEY TO AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO ENTERING THE EDUCATOR WORKFORCE WHILE THE STUDENT IS A STUDENT EDUCATOR IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT OF ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM, ACCOUNTABLE PROGRAMS TO MEET STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS, AND CLASS SIZE REDUCTION, AND THEREFORE THE DEPARTMENT AND ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

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

SECTION 2. Appropriation. (1) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$4,197,000 is appropriated to the department of education for use by educator talent. This appropriation is from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of article IX of the state constitution. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for transfer to the department of higher education for the student educator stipend program.

(2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$4,197,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for use by Colorado commission on higher education financial aid. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the department of education under subsection (1) of this section, and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 1.0 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the student educator stipend program.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: June 4, 2024