

Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 18-0811.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 18-085

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd, Coram, Merrifield, Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan,

Senate Committees

Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Current law allows the department of higher education to provide up to 20 financial stipends annually, not to exceed \$6,000 each, to teachers in rural schools or school districts (rural schools) who are seeking certification as a national board certified teacher, seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher, or furthering their professional development plan through continuing education, and who

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

commit to employment in a rural school for a minimum of 3 years. The bill increases the number of available stipends to 60 and expands it to include teachers completing an approved alternative licensure program leading to initial licensure and full-time employment in a rural school or board of cooperative services that serves rural schools and individuals completing the required course work leading to certification as a special services provider and employment in a rural school or a board of cooperative services that serves rural schools.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-101 as
3 follows:

4 **23-76-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 finds that:

6 (a) Teachers have a great impact on student achievement.
7 Evidence shows that ~~teacher~~ THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS can account for the
8 majority of variances in student learning and test scores.

9 (b) The teaching and learning conditions under which teachers
10 practice their profession, though often overlooked, are essential elements
11 to student achievement and ~~teacher~~ retention. These conditions must be
12 systematically studied and addressed for Colorado to develop a critical
13 mass of teachers who are well prepared to teach and who will remain in
14 hardest-to-staff schools long enough to make a significant difference for
15 students and their families.

16 (c) Research ~~also~~ demonstrates that the negative effects of ~~teacher~~
17 shortages ~~and~~ OF TEACHERS AND SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, AS WELL
18 AS distribution challenges, have a disproportionate impact on geographic
19 areas of the state that are classified as "rural". ~~leaving~~ AS A RESULT,
20 children in ~~those~~ RURAL areas ARE more likely to be taught by fewer
21 teachers who must cover an increasingly larger number of subjects AND

1 HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CRITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED BY
2 SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS.

3 (d) APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS
4 ARE CRITICAL FOR FILLING TEACHER SHORTAGES IN RURAL SCHOOLS AND
5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO. RURAL SCHOOL LEADERS ARE
6 ABLE TO PLACE QUALIFIED TEACHER CANDIDATES, INCLUDING MEMBERS
7 OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, IN CLASSROOMS THROUGH THESE
8 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS
9 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND COACHING TO AN INDIVIDUAL
10 DURING HIS OR HER YEAR-LONG TRAINING AND ALLOW ALTERNATIVE
11 TEACHER CANDIDATES TO EARN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE WHILE
12 SERVING IN CLASSROOMS. BY HELPING TO FILL IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN
13 HARD-TO-STAFF RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND BY
14 RECEIVING THE NECESSARY TRAINING, ALTERNATIVE TEACHER
15 CANDIDATES ARE ABLE TO CREATE A POSITIVE, LONGITUDINAL IMPACT ON
16 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

17 (e) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION
18 PATHWAYS IN COLORADO, THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER
19 CANDIDATES HAS INCREASED STEADILY, WITH ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR
20 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CANDIDATES NOW COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE
21 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM.

22 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that, for
23 purposes of section 17 of article IX of the state constitution,
24 implementation of measures designed to improve ~~teacher~~ THE quality,
25 recruitment, and retention OF TEACHERS AND SPECIAL SERVICES
26 PROVIDERS in the rural areas of Colorado through this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 76
27 is a critical element of accountable education reform, accountable

1 programs to meet state academic standards, and performance incentives
2 for teachers AND SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS and, therefore, may
3 receive funding from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of
4 article IX of the state constitution.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76-102, **amend**
6 the introductory portion; and **add** (5) as follows:

7 **23-76-102. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 76, unless
8 the context otherwise requires:

9 (5) "SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER" MEANS ANY PERSON OTHER
10 THAN A TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED BY
11 ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES TO PROVIDE
12 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE
13 EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-106 as
15 follows:

16 **23-76-106. National board certified teacher stipends -**
17 **concurrent enrollment stipends - special service providers stipends.**

18 (1) The department of higher education shall annually provide up to
19 ~~twenty~~ SIXTY financial stipends, not to exceed six thousand dollars each,
20 to any:

21 (a) Teacher in a rural school or school district who is seeking
22 certification as a national board certified teacher;

23 (b) TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO IS
24 seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher ~~or is a teacher~~
25 ~~furthering his or her professional development plan through continuing~~
26 ~~education.~~ AND WHO NEEDS ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK OR CREDENTIALS
27 TO OBTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION;

1 (c) TEACHER COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM
2 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
3 60.5 OF TITLE 22 THAT LEADS TO INITIAL LICENSURE IN THE STATE OF
4 COLORADO AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A TEACHER IN A RURAL
5 SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES
6 THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS; OR

7 (d) INDIVIDUAL SEEKING TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED COURSE
8 WORK LEADING TO CERTIFICATION AS A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER AND
9 EMPLOYMENT IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A BOARD OF
10 COOPERATIVE SERVICES THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL
11 DISTRICTS.

12 (2) The stipends may be used to offset application fees, evaluation
13 costs, tuition costs, and any ADDITIONAL costs associated with ~~continuing~~
14 ~~education that are~~ OBTAINING INITIAL LICENSURE OR in support of a
15 teacher's OR SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER'S professional development
16 plan.

17 (3) The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent
18 practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration
19 the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state.

20 (4) A teacher OR A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER who receives a
21 stipend pursuant to this section must commit to ~~teach for a total~~ BECOME
22 OR REMAIN EMPLOYED IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A
23 BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS OR
24 SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR A MINIMUM of three
25 years. ~~in his or her rural school or school district.~~

26 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
27 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

1 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
2 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a
3 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
4 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
5 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
6 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
7 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
8 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.