

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 19-0478.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

SENATE BILL 19-009

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd, Coram

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and Wilson,

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>.)

Under existing law, the department of higher education (department) annually awards up to 40 stipends of not more than \$2,800 to students enrolled in teacher preparation programs who agree to teach in a rural school or rural school district. The bill removes the limit on the number of stipends and increases the amount to \$4,000.

Under existing law, the department also annually awards up to 60

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.

stipends to educators in rural schools and rural school districts who are seeking certain certifications. The bill removes the limit on the number of stipends.

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

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

4 **23-76-104. Student teachers in rural areas - financial**
5 **incentives.** ~~Beginning January 1, 2017~~ SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
6 APPROPRIATIONS, the department of higher education shall provide ~~up to~~
7 ~~forty~~ financial stipends annually, not to exceed ~~two thousand eight~~
8 ~~hundred~~ FOUR THOUSAND dollars per student, to offset tuition costs for
9 individuals in approved educator preparation programs who agree to
10 student teach in a rural school or rural school district of the student
11 teacher's choice. The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent
12 practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration
13 the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state. Money for the
14 stipends must be allocated from the department of higher education to the
15 institution of higher education to be credited to the student's account. A
16 student teacher who receives a financial stipend pursuant to this section
17 must agree to work in a rural school or rural school district for at least
18 two years, unless he or she can demonstrate extenuating circumstances
19 that such employment would impose a hardship on him or her. If a
20 recipient of a financial stipend awarded pursuant to this section does not
21 accept an offer of employment to teach in a rural school or rural school
22 district after the completion of his or her student teaching, he or she may,
23 as determined by the department of education on a case-by-case basis,
24 reimburse the department of higher education for two-thirds of the

1 amount of the financial stipend that he or she received. If a recipient of
2 a financial stipend awarded pursuant to this section accepts an offer of
3 employment to teach in a rural school or rural school district but only
4 teaches in a rural school or rural school district for one year and not the
5 required two years, he or she may, as determined by the department of
6 education on a case-by-case basis, reimburse the department of higher
7 education for one-third of the amount of the financial stipend he or she
8 received.

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

11 **23-76-106. National board certified teacher stipends -**
12 **concurrent enrollment stipends.** (1) The department of higher
13 education shall annually provide ~~up to sixty~~ financial stipends, not to
14 exceed six thousand dollars each, to any:

15 (1.5) If in any one fiscal year, the number of stipend applications
16 submitted pursuant to this section exceeds the total amount of
17 APPROPRIATED FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR FOR stipends ~~available~~ AWARDED
18 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, the department of higher education shall give
19 priority for stipend awards to teachers. After all teacher applications have
20 been funded, stipends may then be awarded to special services providers,
21 subject to available appropriations.

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