



Legislative
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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0748
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Wilson
 Sen. Todd

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Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: **AMEND PROGRAMS ADDRESSING EDUCATOR SHORTAGES**

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:**

- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- School District
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill makes changes to programs related to the educator shortage, and requires the development of statewide degree transfer agreements for education courses. The bill increases state expenditures in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22, and school district workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation
Summary:**

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Higher Education.

**Fiscal Note
Status:**

This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1231**

		FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$50,000	\$50,000
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes changes to state law related to programs intended to address the educator shortage. Current law contains a grow your own educator program that allows students in their final 36 credits at an institution of higher education to be a teacher of record at a local education provider (LEP), as well as a grant program for LEPs to cover tuition costs for teachers of record. The bill repeals and reenacts the program, including the grant program, as discussed below.

Grow your own educator program. Under the bill, grow your own educator programs allow high school students to participate in a teacher preparation pathway in which the student receives college credit towards an education or related degree at an institution of higher education. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and Department of Higher Education (DHE) must create collaborations between an LEP and institutions of higher education to ensure transferrable credit towards an applicable degree.

Scholarship program. The State Board of Education (SBE) must create a grow your own scholarship program providing \$5,000 to students who are enrolled in an educator preparation program, have not yet completed their final 24 credit hours, and agree to work as an educator in public schools upon completion of their credential. The SBE must prioritize applicants who participated in an LEP grow your own educator program and who either complete their field work in a school for the LEP, commit to teaching in a subject in which there is a teacher shortage, or commit to teaching in a rural school district.

Scholarships are funded by unexpended money appropriated to CDE in FY 2019-20 for grow your own educator programs. The money is continuously appropriated until it is exhausted. CDE must report to the education committees of the General Assembly by September 30 for any year in which a scholarship is awarded.

Teacher of record licenses. The bill modifies the teacher of record license to allow it to be issued to applicants who are enrolled in an approved educator preparation program but have not completed the required field work, who are enrolled in a teacher of record program, and are employed by a LEP. Teachers of record license is only valid in the LEP in which the licensee is completing the teacher of record program.

Statewide degree transfer agreements. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) must work with institutions of higher education and the general education council to negotiate statewide degree transfer agreements for educator preparation programs by July 1, 2022.

Background

House Bill 18-1309 created the grow your own educator program and provided \$1.0 million to CDE for the grant program, to be spent in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20, and 0.3 FTE to the Educator Talent Division in CDE for administration. However, CDE has not received any grant applications and none of the grant funding has been spent.

State Revenue

To the extent the changes to the teacher of record license result in additional applications, revenue will increase to the Educator Licensure Cash Fund. The licensing fee, which is subject to TABOR, is \$90. The increase is expected to be minimal.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state General Fund expenditures for DHE by \$50,000 in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. Costs are listed in Table 2 and discussed below. In addition, the bill modifies the workload and expenditures for CDE.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 20-1231

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of Higher Education		
Contract Staff	\$20,000	\$20,000
Convening Costs	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total Cost	\$50,000	\$50,000

Department of Higher Education. DHE requires \$50,000 in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 to negotiate and implement statewide degree transfer agreements for education by July 1, 2022. These costs include \$20,000 per year for contract staff to manage the process, and \$30,000 per year to convene a series of meetings with the state institutions of higher education. Based on the statewide degree transfer agreements developed for engineering, it is expected that 10 agreements will be negotiated and that three meetings are required to negotiate each agreement, at a cost of \$2,000 each. The fiscal note assumes that half will be held in FY 2020-21 and half in FY 2021-22.

Institutions of higher education. The bill increases the workload for state institutions of higher education to negotiate and implement statewide transfer agreements, to collaborate with LEPs on the creation of grow your own educator programs, and for DHE to support and encourage these collaborations. No change in appropriations is required.

Colorado Department of Education. The bill modifies the workload and expenditures for CDE, which will no longer administer the grant program and instead will implement the scholarship program. Based on the funding remaining from the grant program, the fiscal note estimates that up to 200 scholarships of \$5,000 each will be awarded over multiple years. The 0.3 FTE initially provided for the grant program will instead administer the new scholarship program; no change in staffing levels is required.

In addition, the bill increases workload for CDE to modify the teacher of record license and handle additional applications.

School District

The bill increases workload for school districts that choose to collaborate with institutions of higher education to implement grow your own educator programs, as defined in the bill. Workload will vary by district.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Higher Education