

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0319.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 24-1087

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PATHWAY FOR**
102 **EDUCATORS TO GAIN AN ENDORSEMENT FOR SPECIAL**
103 **EDUCATION INSTRUCTION.**

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 current law, a person seeking a teaching endorsement in special education or early childhood special education (endorsement) must complete an approved program and a student teaching practicum through an institution of higher education and pass one or more appropriate content-based exams. The bill requires the department of

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

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 4, 2024

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 1, 2024

education (department) to establish an additional pathway for an educator to obtain an endorsement. To receive the endorsement, the educator must hold a valid teaching license other than an initial license; take and pass the appropriate content-based exams, as determined by the department; and complete a specialized induction program that meets the standards and criteria established by rule of the state board of education. Upon the educator's completion of all the components of the additional pathway, the department shall grant the educator a professional endorsement for instruction in special education or early childhood special education.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-106, **amend**
3 **(2)** as follows:

4 **22-60.5-106. Endorsement of license - effect - rules.**

5 **(2)** Notwithstanding the discretionary authority granted in subsection (1)
6 of this section, the department of education shall issue a special education
7 teacher endorsement to an applicant who completes ~~course work~~
8 COURSEWORK and assessments, as specified by rule of the state board of
9 education, in a program in special education offered by an accepted
10 institution of higher education, OR AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER
11 PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFERED BY A
12 DESIGNATED AGENCY, which program has been approved by the state
13 board of education.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-205, **add**
15 **(2)(d)(III)** as follows:

16 **22-60.5-205. One-year and two-year alternative teacher**
17 **programs - standards and evaluation - duties of department - duties**
18 **of the state board of education - fees - rules - legislative declaration.**

19 **(2)** Designated agencies are authorized to implement one-year alternative
20 teacher programs or two-year alternative teacher programs, which

1 two-year programs were formerly known as teacher in residence
2 programs, as follows:

3 (d) (III) (A) A PERSON WITH A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSE
4 MAY CONTINUE IN THE PERSON'S CURRENT POSITION WHILE PARTICIPATING
5 IN AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE
6 OF RECEIVING A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT
7 TO SECTION 22-60.5-106 (2).

8 (B) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROMULGATE RULES
9 TO ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
10 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER PARTICIPATING
11 IN AN ALTERNATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM MUST COMPLETE TO
12 RECEIVE A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO
13 SECTION 22-60.5-106 (2).

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