A BILL FOR 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.

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.)

The bill requires the general assembly to appropriate money from the state education fund to fund stipends under the student educator stipend program, subject to available appropriations.
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, awarding 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.

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.