

CHAPTER 359

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 14-1175

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Fields and Pabon, Duran, Exum, Fischer, Foote, Ginal, Hamner, Hullinghorst, Labuda, Lebsack, Lee, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Rosenthal, Ryden, Salazar, Schafer, Tyler, Vigil, Williams, Young; also SENATOR(S) Johnston, Aguilar, Guzman, Kefalas, Kerr, Nicholson, Schwartz, Steadman, Todd, Ulibarri.

AN ACT

CONCERNING STUDYING STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL ONGOING RECRUITMENT OF MINORITY TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-2-505** as follows:

22-2-505. Minority teacher recruitment - legislative declaration - study - report. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) DIVERSITY OF TEACHERS IN K-12 CLASSROOMS IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT HELPS PROVIDE POSITIVE ROLE MODELS FOR STUDENTS BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT OFFERS A BROADER CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF LEARNING STRATEGIES AND NEEDS;

(b) THE MOST RECENT DATA FOR COLORADO SHOWS THAT WHILE APPROXIMATELY FORTY-FOUR PERCENT OF STUDENTS IN COLORADO ARE MINORITIES, ONLY TWELVE PERCENT OF TEACHERS ARE MINORITIES; AND

(c) STATEWIDE, THE NUMBER OF MINORITY TEACHERS HAS NOT KEPT UP WITH POPULATION GROWTH AND CHANGES IN STUDENT DIVERSITY.

(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE DECLARES THAT IT IS A MATTER OF STATEWIDE CONCERN TO STUDY AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE RECRUITMENT, PREPARATION, AND RETENTION OF HIGH QUALITY MINORITY TEACHERS IN COLORADO'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL STUDY AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE RECRUITMENT, PREPARATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND RETENTION OF HIGH-QUALITY MINORITY TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN COLORADO. ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2014, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PREPARE A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS, INCLUDING CURRENT STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SUBMIT IT TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESENT THE REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2015.

(4) THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AS "ALIYAH'S LAW".

SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2014 long bill. (1) For the implementation of this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act to the controlled maintenance trust fund created in section 24-75-302.5 (2) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, is decreased by \$50,000.

(2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of education, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, the sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be allocated to grant programs, distributions, and other assistance for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 6, 2014