CHAPTER 198

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

SENATE BILL 20-158

BY SENATOR(S) Todd, Bridges, Fields, Gonzales, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Story, Tate, Zenzinger; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McLachlan and Wilson, Bird, Buentello, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kipp, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Roberts, Sandridge, Singer, Snyder, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Young.

AN ACT

CONCERNING MEASURES RELATED TO PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-101, amend (3.7) as follows:

- **23-3.9-101. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (3.7) "Qualified loan" means an educational loan incurred while completing an approved educator preparation program, as defined in section 23-1-121 A PROGRAM OF PREPARATION, INCLUDING AN ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22, THAT LEADS TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22, or a bachelor's or master's degree in the area in which the educator is employed in a qualified position. The commission shall determine if a loan is a qualified loan for purposes of the educator loan forgiveness program created in section 23-3.9-102.
- **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-102, **amend** (1)(c) introductory portion, (2) introductory portion, and (2)(a); and **repeal** (2)(c) as follows:
- **23-3.9-102.** Educator loan forgiveness program administration fund eligibility. (1) (c) Subject to available appropriations, the commission shall annually approve applications for up to one hundred new participants in the educator loan forgiveness program. If more applicants NEW PARTICIPANTS apply than the number of new participants authorized for the applicable year CAN BE

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

APPROVED BASED ON THE MONEY AVAILABLE IN THE EDUCATOR LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND, the commission shall:

- (2) In addition to any qualifications specified by the commission, to qualify for the educator loan forgiveness program, an educator shall MUST:
- (a) Graduate from an approved educator preparation program, as defined in section 23-1-121, or, if the applicant is a special services provider, satisfy the special services provider preparation requirements for licensure A PROGRAM OF PREPARATION THAT LEADS TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22;
- (c) (I) Demonstrate professional competencies consistent with state board of education rules in the subject matter in which the educator obtains a qualified position; or
- (II) Be fully qualified under a training program approved by a federal court or agency or the state department of education;

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

- 23-76-104. Student teachers in rural areas financial incentives. (1) Subject to available appropriations, the department of higher education shall provide financial stipends annually, not to exceed four thousand dollars per student, to offset tuition costs for individuals in approved educator preparation programs who agree to student teach in a rural school or rural school district of the student teacher's choice. The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state. Money for the stipends must be allocated from the department of higher education to the institution of higher education to be credited to the student's account AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. A student teacher who receives a financial stipend pursuant to this section must agree to work in a rural school or rural school district for at least two years, unless he or she can demonstrate extenuating circumstances that such employment would impose a hardship on him or her. If a recipient of a financial stipend awarded pursuant to this section does not accept an offer of employment to teach in a rural school or rural school district after the completion of his or her student teaching, he or she may, as determined by the department of education on a case-by-case basis, reimburse the department of higher education for two-thirds of the amount of the financial stipend that he or she received. If a recipient of a financial stipend awarded pursuant to this section accepts an offer of employment to teach in a rural school or rural school district but only teaches in a rural school or rural school district for one year and not the required two years, he or she may, as determined by the department of education on a case-by-case basis, reimburse the department of higher education for one-third of the amount of the financial stipend he or she received.
- (2) For the 2020-21 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, of the total amount appropriated to fund the programs described in this article 76 and the teaching fellowship programs described in part 3 of article 78 of this title 23, the department of higher education shall allocate to the

STIPENDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT REMAINING AFTER THE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS DESCRIBED IN PART 3 OF ARTICLE 78 OF THIS TITLE 23 ARE FULLY FUNDED FOR THE APPLICABLE FISCAL YEAR; EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADJUST THE PERCENTAGE ALLOCATED BASED ON THE DEMAND FOR THE STIPENDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AND FOR THE STIPENDS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-76-106 AND ON INPUT RECEIVED FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF RURAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76-106, **amend** (1)(c), (1)(d), and (2); and **add** (1)(e) and (5) as follows:

- **23-76-106.** National board certified teacher stipends concurrent enrollment stipends continuing education stipends. (1) The department of higher education shall annually provide financial stipends, not to exceed six thousand dollars each, to any:
- (c) Teacher completing an alternative licensure program approved by the department of education pursuant to article 60.5 of title 22 that leads to initial licensure in the state of Colorado and full-time employment as a teacher in a rural school or school district that serves rural schools; or
- (d) Individual seeking to complete the required course work leading to certification as a special services provider and employment in a rural school or school district that is providing services to rural schools; OR
- (e) TEACHER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A RURAL BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES AND IS SEEKING AN ADDITIONAL LICENSE ENDORSEMENT OR A MASTER'S DEGREE TO MEET A FACULTY NEED OF THE RURAL SCHOOL, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES.
- (2) The stipends may be used to offset application fees, evaluation costs, tuition costs, and any additional costs associated with obtaining initial licensure or in support of a teacher's or special services provider's professional development plan; except that the stipends may only be used to offset costs associated with an institution of higher education or an alternative licensure program that is approved by the state board of education. A STIPEND AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
- (5) (a) For the 2020-21 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, of the total amount appropriated to fund the programs described in this article 76 and the teaching fellowship programs described in part 3 of article 78 of this title 23, the department of higher education shall allocate, of the amount remaining after the teaching fellowship programs described in part 3 of article 78 of this title 23 are fully funded for the applicable fiscal year:
- (I) TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT TO THE STIPENDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (1)(a), (1)(b), AND (1)(e) OF THIS SECTION; AND
 - (II) FIFTY PERCENT TO THE STIPENDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS

SECTION.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (5)(a) of this section, the department may adjust the percentage allocations based on the demand for the stipends described in subsection (1) of this section and for the stipends described in section 23-76-104 and on input received from representatives of rural schools or school districts. The department may distribute any amount remaining after awarding stipends for teachers to fund the stipends described in subsection (1)(d) of this section.
 - **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-78-303, **amend** (8) as follows:
- **23-78-303. Definitions.** As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (8) "Stipend" means a teaching fellowship stipend distributed to a teaching fellow AS WAGES FOR EMPLOYMENT OR as state-based financial aid as provided in section 23-78-306.
- **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-78-305, **amend** (2)(c)(II) and (3) as follows:
- **23-78-305. Teaching fellowship program agreements requirements report.** (2) At a minimum, each agreement must describe the roles and expectations of the rural local education provider and the institution of higher education in implementing the program, including at a minimum:
 - (c) The commitment of the institution of higher education to:
- (II) Disburse the stipend using the standard methods for allocating state-based financial aid or as wages for employment, as selected by the teaching fellow pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and
- (3) During the one-year teaching fellowship, each teaching fellow is expected to complete the approved educator preparation program in which he or she is enrolled and any additional requirements for completing his or her postsecondary credential. Each teaching fellow MUST CHOOSE WHETHER TO HAVE A STIPEND AWARDED AS STATE-BASED FINANCIAL AID OR AS WAGES FOR EMPLOYMENT. Each teaching fellow must commit to at least two full school years of employment by the rural local education provider following completion of the fellowship year if the teaching fellow receives an offer of employment from the rural local education provider for each of the two school years. A teaching fellow who receives offers of employment for both school years and does not complete the two full school years of employment must repay the amount received as a stipend during the fellowship year.
 - **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-78-306 as follows:
- **23-78-306. Teaching fellowship stipends amount funding.** (1) Subject to available appropriations, up to one hundred teaching fellows per year, selected as provided in subsection (2) of this section, shall receive financial assistance in the

form of a stipend in the amount of ten thousand dollars disbursed during the fellowship year. The stipend is As provided in section 23-78-305 (3), the TEACHING FELLOW MUST CHOOSE WHETHER THE STIPEND IS AWARDED AS STATE-BASED FINANCIAL AID OR AS WAGES FOR EMPLOYMENT. IN EITHER CASE, THE STIPEND IS AWARDED WITHOUT REGARD TO NEED AND IS in addition to any other financial assistance that may be available to the teaching fellow. A teaching fellow may apply the stipend to pay the costs of attendance during the year in which he or she participates in the teaching fellowship program.

- (2) The teaching fellowship stipends shall be paid fifty percent by the department of higher education as part of the state financial assistance program FROM THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PART 3 and fifty percent by the participating institution of higher education. as institutional financial assistance. An institution of higher education that participates in a teaching fellowship program shall notify the department of higher education of the enrollment of each student who enters into a teaching fellowship program. Based on the level of chronic hiring difficulty and financial need demonstrated by each participating rural local education provider, the department shall annually select up to one hundred students enrolled in teaching fellowship programs to receive the stipend and shall forward to the institution fifty percent of the amount of the stipend for each selected student. The institution shall provide the remaining fifty percent of the stipend and disburse one hundred percent of each stipend to the selected teaching fellows as provided in section 23-78-305 (1)(e) SECTION 23-78-305 (2)(c).
- (3) If, upon completion of a teaching fellowship program, a teaching fellow does not accept an offer of employment made by the participating rural local education provider, or does not complete two full school years of employment as required in section 23-78-305 (3), the teaching fellow must repay the amount received as a stipend during the teaching fellowship year in accordance with terms established by the participating institution of higher education, and upon receipt of repayment the institution shall refund to the department of higher education the amount of the stipend. paid as state financial aid.
- (4) The general assembly shall annually appropriate to the department of higher education the amount required to implement the teaching fellowship programs as provided in this part 3. Any unexpended and unencumbered money from an appropriation made for the purposes of this part 3 for a state fiscal year COMMENCING PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2020, remains available for expenditure by the department for the purposes of this part 3 and for the purposes of sections 23-76-104 and 23-76-106 in the next fiscal year without further appropriation.
- **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-121, **amend** (2), (4)(a)(I), (4)(a)(III), (4)(b), (4)(d), and (6); **repeal** (8); and **add** (4)(a)(I.5) as follows:
- **23-1-121.** Commission directive approval of educator preparation programs review report. (2) The commission shall adopt policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in cooperation with the state board of education in developing the requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the requirements must ensure that each educator preparation program complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based model, and

includes:

- (a) A comprehensive admission system that includes screening of a candidate's dispositions for the field in which he or she is seeking licensure, consideration of a candidate's academic preparation for entry into his or her desired endorsement area or areas, and preadmission advising for students who are considering becoming candidates. The department shall work in collaboration with the programs to define any dispositions considered to be appropriate for educators. Program design around a shared vision of candidate proficiency and professionalism that supports decision making about partnerships and the integration of curricula, learners, and course work and clinical experiences;
- (b) Ongoing advising and screening of candidates by practicing educators or faculty members Mapping, planning, development, assessment, and support of candidate proficiencies, including candidates' deep understanding of content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, the content knowledge required for educating, and the dispositions and professional qualities necessary to be successful;
- (c) Course work and field-based training that integrates theory and practice and educates candidates in the methodologies, practices, and procedures of standards-based education, as described in part 10 of article 7 of title 22, C.R.S., and specifically in teaching to the state preschool through elementary and secondary education standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-1005, C.R.S. WITH REGARD TO TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS, COURSES THAT PROVIDE CONTENT KNOWLEDGE AS DESCRIBED IN PART 10 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 22, SPECIFICALLY IN TEACHING TO THE STATE PRESCHOOL THROUGH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION STANDARDS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005;
- (c.5) Course work that teaches teacher candidates the science of reading, including the foundational reading skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency including oral skills, and reading comprehension, and the skills and strategies to apply to ensure that every student learns to read. Reading course work and field practice opportunities must be a significant focus for teachers preparing for endorsement in elementary, early childhood, or special education.
- (d) A requirement that each teacher candidate in an initial licensure program complete at least one full, continuous school year of supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards and includes best practices; and, during the course of the preparation program, each principal and administrator candidate complete a minimum of three hundred hours, and each other advanced degree or add-on endorsement candidate complete an appropriate period, of supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards and includes best practices and national norms related to the candidate's endorsement Intentional clinical experience, early and throughout preparation, relating to predetermined state content standards, which experiences afford candidates multiple, intentional experiences to learn from practice. Clinical experiences must be aligned with program curricula so that candidates develop pedagogical skills and pedagogical content knowledge. Teacher preparation candidates must complete a

MINIMUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED HOURS, AND PRINCIPAL AND ADMINISTRATOR CANDIDATES MUST COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF THREE HUNDRED HOURS, OF CLINICAL PRACTICE. A TEACHER CANDIDATE MUST COMPLETE THE HOURS OF CLINICAL PRACTICE WHILE ENROLLED IN AN APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM; EXCEPT THAT A PROGRAM, AFTER REVIEW, MAY ACCEPT CLINICAL PRACTICE HOURS COMPLETED BEFORE ENROLLING IN THE PROGRAM. A MAJORITY OF THE CLINICAL PRACTICE HOURS MUST BE COMPLETED THROUGH A CONTINUOUS PLACEMENT. FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT OR ADVANCED DEGREE, A CANDIDATE MUST COMPLETE AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD OF SUPERVISED FIELD EXPERIENCES THAT RELATE TO PREDETERMINED STANDARDS, INCLUDING BEST PRACTICES AND RELEVANT NATIONAL NORMS RELATED TO THE CANDIDATE'S ENDORSEMENTS.

- (e) A requirement that each candidate, prior to graduation, must demonstrate the skills required for licensure, as specified by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109 (3), C.R.S., in the manner specified by rule of the state board;
- (f) Comprehensive, ongoing assessment including evaluation of each candidate's subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to demonstrate skill in applying the professional knowledge base. A requirement that preparation program faculty, to improve their work, must engage in continuous evidence-based cycles of self-reflection and review regarding the impact of their programs on their candidates' development throughout the programs. These cycles must include data on current candidates throughout the program and available data on program completers.
- (4) (a) (I) The department, in conjunction with the department of education, shall review each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4) subsection (4)(b) of this section and shall establish a schedule for review of each educator preparation program that ensures each program is reviewed as provided in this section not more frequently than once every five years; except that, if a program is placed on conditional approval or probationary status, the program must receive additional reviews within the five-year period, as determined by the department. Reviews of or decisions made concerning a program after it is placed on conditional approval or probationary status do not change the date of the program's next five-year review, as determined by the department.
- (I.5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section to the contrary, if a new unit is approved and offers a new educator preparation program, the department shall review the new educator preparation program no sooner than twelve months but not more than twenty-four months after the new educator preparation program is initially approved.
- (III) An institution of higher education that chooses to offer a new educator preparation program or modify an existing program, either by significantly modifying the content, or modifying the geographic area in which the program is offered, FIELD EXPERIENCES, OR PROGRAM DELIVERY, shall submit the new or modified program to the department for review pursuant to this section. The

commission shall adopt policies and procedures for the review of new and modified programs.

- (b) Each program review conducted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST ensure that the program meets the minimum requirements adopted pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section and the requirements of section 23-1-108 and any policies adopted pursuant thereto. In determining whether to initially approve or continue the approval of an educator preparation program, the commission shall consider any recommendations made by the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109 (5) C.R.S., concerning the effectiveness of the program content. If the state board of education recommends that a program not be approved OR BE PLACED ON CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OR PROBATION, the commission shall follow the recommendation by refusing initial approval of the program, PLACING THE PROGRAM ON CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, or placing the program on probation.
- (d) (I) Following review of an educator preparation program, if the commission determines that the program does not meet the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4) Subsection (4)(b) of this section, it shall grant the Program Conditional approval, place the program on probation, or terminate the Program. The commission shall adopt policies specifying the procedures for placing a program on probation and for subsequently terminating a program Conditional approval, placing a program on Probation, and terminating a Program, including a procedure for appeal; the length of time that a Program may remain on conditional approval or probation; and the Process by Which the Level of approval of a Program is reviewed and Changed.
- (II) APROGRAM THAT THE COMMISSION PLACES ON CONDITIONAL APPROVAL MAY CONTINUE TO ACCEPT NEW STUDENTS. A program that is placed the COMMISSION PLACES on probation shall must not accept new students until the commission removes the program from probationary status.
- (III) If the commission determines that termination of the approval of a program is necessary, the program $\frac{1}{2}$ MUST be terminated within four years after $\frac{1}{2}$ THE determination.
- (IV) If the commission places a program on CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OR probation based on the recommendation of the state board of education, the commission shall consult with the state board of education in determining AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(d)(II) OR (4)(d)(III) OF THIS SECTION Whether the program should SUBSEQUENTLY be reapproved, or whether approval should be CONDITIONALLY APPROVED, PLACED ON PROBATION, OR terminated.
- (6) The department shall annually prepare a report concerning the enrollment in, graduation rates from, and effectiveness of the review of educator preparation programs authorized by the commission. In addition the report shall include data on the outcomes of graduates of educator preparation programs pursuant to section 22-2-112 (1)(q). C.R.S. The report shall also state the percentage of educator candidates graduating from each program during the preceding twelve months that WHO applied for and received an initial license pursuant to section 22-60.5-201,

C.R.S., and the percentage of the graduates who passed the assessments administered pursuant to section 22-60.5-203. C.R.S. For purposes of completing the report required pursuant to this subsection (6), the department of higher education and the department of education shall share any relevant data that complies with state and federal regulations with the other agency. The department shall provide notice to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, that the report is available to the members of the committees upon request. Notwithstanding the requirement in section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the requirement to submit the report required in this subsection (6) continues indefinitely.

(8) On or before December 30, 2013, the commission shall review the provisions of this section and any associated commission policies and make recommendations for a new system to review, evaluate, and assist educator preparation programs regarding the requirements of Senate Bill 08-212, enacted in 2008, Senate Bill 10-191, enacted in 2010, House Bill 09-1065, enacted in 2009, Senate Bill 11-036, enacted in 2010, Senate Bill 11-245, enacted in 2011, and any laws pertaining to educator preparation programs enacted in 2013.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-121.2 as follows:

23-1-121.2. Department directive - educator preparation pathways - public information. By October 1, 2020, the department shall post on the department website a description of each of the existing programs and pathways that lead to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher preparation programs approved pursuant to article 60.5 of title 22, teacher preparation programs approved pursuant to section 23-1-121, teacher residency programs, student teacher programs, concurrent enrollment programs, teacher cadet programs, grow your own educator programs established pursuant to section 22-60.5-208.5, programs funded through the collaborative educator preparation grant programs created in section 23-78-203, and the teaching fellowship programs created pursuant to part 3 of article 78 of this title 23. The department shall annually update the descriptions of programs and pathways.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-109, **amend** (5)(a) as follows:

22-2-109. State board of education - additional duties - teacher standards - principal standards. (5) (a) The state board shall review the content of educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education within the state. Such review shall MUST be designed to ensure that the content of each program is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a candidate to meet the requirements specified by the state board pursuant to subsection (3) of this section and the requirements for licensure endorsement adopted by rule of the state board pursuant to section 22-60.5-106. The state board shall recommend to the Colorado commission on higher education that a program BE PLACED ON CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, BE PLACED ON PROBATION, OR not be approved pursuant to section 23-1-121 C.R.S., if it determines that the program content does not meet the requirements specified in subsection (3) of this section or the endorsement requirements.

SECTION 11. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: June 30, 2020