

**Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 16-0657.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 16-104**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Todd,** Garcia, Johnston, Kerr, Merrifield, Newell

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Becker J.,** Rankin

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING INCENTIVES TO BECOME A TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL**  
102                    **DISTRICT OF COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103                    **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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://www.leg.state.co.us/bills summaries>.)*

The bill creates several methods to address the problem of recruitment and retention of teachers in rural school districts of Colorado (rural districts). This includes:

- !      Establishing one or more rural education centers housed in institutions of higher education in rural districts;

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*



1 DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE THAT  
2 ARE CLASSIFIED AS "RURAL", LEAVING CHILDREN IN THOSE AREAS MORE  
3 LIKELY TO BE TAUGHT BY FEWER TEACHERS WHO MUST COVER AN  
4 INCREASINGLY LARGER NUMBER OF SUBJECTS.

5 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT,  
6 FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION,  
7 IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE TEACHER  
8 QUALITY, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION IN THE RURAL AREAS OF  
9 COLORADO THROUGH THIS ARTICLE IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT OF  
10 ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM, ACCOUNTABLE PROGRAMS TO MEET  
11 STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS, AND PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR  
12 TEACHERS AND, THEREFORE, MAY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE  
13 EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE  
14 STATE CONSTITUTION.

15 **23-75-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
16 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

17 (1) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON  
18 HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-1-102.

19 (2) "EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM" MEANS AN EDUCATOR  
20 PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO  
21 SECTION 23-1-121 AND THAT UPON COMPLETION LEADS TO A  
22 RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSURE BY AN ACCEPTED INSTITUTION OF  
23 HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO.

24 (3) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A PUBLIC,  
25 PRIVATE, OR PROPRIETARY POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION AUTHORIZED BY  
26 THE COMMISSION TO OFFER EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

27 (4) "RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL OR

1 SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS  
2 DETERMINED TO BE RURAL. "RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT"  
3 INCLUDES A CHARTER SCHOOL OR INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT  
4 FALLS WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC RANGE OF A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS  
5 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

6 **23-75-103. Rural education coordinator - request for**  
7 **proposals - reporting requirements.** (1) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1,  
8 2017, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH ONE  
9 RURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR TO REPRESENT A RURAL REGION OF THE  
10 STATE. THE RURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR MUST BE BASED IN AN  
11 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE RURAL  
12 EDUCATION COORDINATOR IS TO:

- 13 (I) PROVIDE AN EMPHASIS ON ACCESS TO TEACHER PREPARATION  
14 PROGRAMS THAT FOCUS ON RURAL EDUCATION;
- 15 (II) INCREASE RURAL TEACHER RECRUITMENT;
- 16 (III) DEVELOP AN EDUCATOR PIPELINE TO RURAL SCHOOLS AND  
17 SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND
- 18 (IV) PROVIDE SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR RURAL SCHOOLS AND  
19 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, AND  
20 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS.

21 (b) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2016, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
22 HIGHER EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
23 EDUCATION, THE COMMISSION, AND INTERESTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
24 THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY AND RURAL AREAS OF COLORADO, SHALL  
25 DEVELOP AND RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO FUND A RURAL  
26 EDUCATION COORDINATOR. THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MUST INCLUDE  
27 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION, TIMELINES, DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS,

1 AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

2 (c) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2017, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
3 EDUCATION SHALL SELECT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO  
4 HOUSE A RURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR FOR FIVE YEARS, BASED ON  
5 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS. AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
6 THAT HAS AN EXISTING RURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR IS ELIGIBLE TO  
7 BE SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR FUNDING  
8 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

9 (2) THE SELECTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL  
10 COLLECT DATA ON THE WORK OF THE RURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR.  
11 AS REQUIRED PER THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, AND PROVIDE A WRITTEN  
12 SUMMARY REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
13 EDUCATION. PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE FIVE-YEAR FUNDING  
14 PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT  
15 OF EDUCATION SHALL EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FUNDED  
16 RURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
17 CONTINUED FUNDING.

18 **23-75-104. Student teachers in rural areas - financial**  
19 **incentives.** BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
20 EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE UP TO FORTY FINANCIAL STIPENDS ANNUALLY,  
21 NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS PER STUDENT,  
22 TO OFFSET TUITION COSTS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN APPROVED EDUCATOR  
23 PREPARATION PROGRAMS WHO AGREE TO STUDENT TEACH IN A RURAL  
24 SCHOOL OR RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE STUDENT TEACHER'S CHOICE.  
25 MONEY FOR THE STIPENDS MUST BE ALLOCATED FROM THE DEPARTMENT  
26 OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO BE  
27 CREDITED TO THE STUDENT'S ACCOUNT.

1           **23-75-105. Teacher cadet program.** ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2017,  
2 THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH TEACHER  
3 CADET PROGRAMS IN IDENTIFIED RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.  
4 MONEY MAY BE PROVIDED TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER  
5 SCHOOLS, OR THE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, ANY OF WHICH MAY  
6 CONTRACT WITH A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES TO IDENTIFY AND  
7 SUPPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING  
8 TEACHING CAREERS IN RURAL COLORADO. THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
9 EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL EVALUATE THE  
10 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TEACHER CADET PROGRAM EVERY FIVE YEARS.

11           **23-75-106. National board certified teacher stipends -**  
12 **concurrent enrollment stipends - continuing education stipends.** THE  
13 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE UP TO  
14 TWENTY FINANCIAL STIPENDS, NOT TO EXCEED SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS  
15 EACH, TO ANY TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO IS  
16 SEEKING CERTIFICATION AS A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER,  
17 SEEKING CERTIFICATION AS A CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT TEACHER, OR IS  
18 A TEACHER FURTHERING HIS OR HER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
19 THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION. THE STIPENDS MAY BE USED TO  
20 OFFSET APPLICATION FEES, EVALUATION COSTS, TUITION COSTS, AND ANY  
21 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONTINUING EDUCATION THAT ARE IN SUPPORT  
22 OF A TEACHER'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. A TEACHER WHO  
23 RECEIVES A STIPEND PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST COMMIT TO TEACH  
24 FOR A TOTAL OF THREE YEARS IN HIS OR HER RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL  
25 DISTRICT.

26           **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2016 long bill.**  
27 **(1) To implement this act, appropriations made in the annual general**

1 appropriation act for the 2016-17 state fiscal year to the department of  
2 education are adjusted as follows:

3 (a) The cash funds appropriation from the state public school fund  
4 created in Section 22-54-114 (1), C.R.S., for the state share of districts'  
5 total program funding is increased by \$441,095; and

6 (b) The general fund appropriation for the state share of districts'  
7 total program funding is decreased by \$441,095.

8 (2) For the 2016-17 state fiscal year, \$441,095 is appropriated to  
9 the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general  
10 fund and is based on an assumption that the department will require an  
11 additional 0.3 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this  
12 appropriation for rural teacher recruitment, retention, and professional  
13 development programs.

14 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.