



Legislative Council Staff
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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0536 **Date:** May 15, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Weinberg; Hamrick **Bill Status:** Deemed Lost
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Bill Topic: **STIPENDS FOR NATIONAL BOARD-CERTIFIED EDUCATORS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill would have expanded eligibility for national board certified educator stipends, and required an annual appropriation for stipends. It would have increased state expenditures beginning in FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2023-24, the bill would have required an appropriation of \$2.1 million to the Colorado Department of Education.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was deemed lost in the House Appropriations Committee on May 9, 2023; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 23-1207

		Budget Year FY 2023-24	Out Year FY 2024-25
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$315,000	\$315,000

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) awards an annual \$1,600 stipend to teachers, principals, school psychologists, and school counselors who hold a national board certification, and an additional \$3,200 stipend to eligible national board certified educators who are employed in a low-performing, high-needs school. Beginning in FY 2023-24, the bill:

- extends both stipends to school social workers and librarians;
- extends the \$3,200 stipend to national board certified educators who are employed in a rural school district, or who are employed as math teachers in any school; and
- specifies that an educator remains eligible for the \$3,200 stipend if they transfer between eligible schools or subjects, but an educator does not remain eligible if they leave employment with a rural school district or low-performing school, or no longer teach math.

The bill requires that the General Assembly annually appropriate at least \$2.1 million from the General Fund for the stipends, beginning in FY 2023-24. If funding for the stipends is not sufficient to fully fund all stipends, stipend amounts are reduced proportionally. CDE must promote the stipend programs and work with stakeholders to encourage eligible educators to apply.

Background

The stipend program was last funded in FY 2019-20, with \$2.1 million appropriated from the State Education Fund. In FY 2018-19, the most recent data available, 619 educators received a stipend; of those, 57 received the additional \$3,200 stipend. Funding was eliminated in FY 2020-21 and the program has not been funded in the years since.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2023-24, the bill increases state expenditures in CDE by \$2.1 million annually, paid from the General Fund. This amount is specified by the bill and will be distributed as stipends to eligible national board certified educators. CDE will incur workload to distribute the funds and promote the stipends; that workload can be accomplished within current resources.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$2,100,000 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education