PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 24-0319.01 Jane Ritter x4342   **HOUSE BILL 24-1087**

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCormick and Armagost,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kirkmeyer and Marchman,

House Committees	Senate Committees
Education	
Appropriations	

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PATHWAY FOR**
102   **EDUCATORS TO GAIN AN ENDORSEMENT FOR SPECIAL**
103   **EDUCATION INSTRUCTION.**

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.)

Under current law, a person seeking a teaching endorsement in special education or early childhood special education (endorsement) must complete an approved program and a student teaching practicum through an institution of higher education and pass one or more appropriate content-based exams. The bill requires the department of

education (department) to establish an additional pathway for an educator to obtain an endorsement. To receive the endorsement, the educator must hold a valid teaching license other than an initial license; take and pass the appropriate content-based exams, as determined by the department; and complete a specialized induction program that meets the standards and criteria established by rule of the state board of education. Upon the educator's completion of all the components of the additional pathway, the department shall grant the educator a professional endorsement for instruction in special education or early childhood special education.

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

2   **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-106, **amend**

3   (2) as follows:

4   **22-60.5-106.   Endorsement of license - effect - rules.**

5   (2) Notwithstanding the discretionary authority granted in subsection (1)

6   of this section, the department of education shall issue a special education

7   teacher endorsement to an applicant who completes ~~course work~~

8   COURSEWORK and assessments, as specified by rule of the state board of

9   education, in a program in special education offered by an accepted

10   institution of higher education, OR AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER

11   PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFERED BY A

12   DESIGNATED AGENCY, which program has been approved by the state

13   board of education.

14   **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-205, **add**

15   (2)(d)(III) as follows:

16   **22-60.5-205.   One-year and two-year alternative teacher**

17   **programs - standards and evaluation - duties of department - duties**

18   **of the state board of education - fees - rules - legislative declaration.**

19   (2) Designated agencies are authorized to implement one-year alternative

20   teacher programs or two-year alternative teacher programs, which

two-year programs were formerly known as teacher in residence programs, as follows:

(d) (III) (A) A PERSON WITH A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSE MAY CONTINUE IN THE PERSON'S CURRENT POSITION WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-106 (2).

(B) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER PARTICIPATING IN AN ALTERNATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM MUST COMPLETE TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-106 (2).

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.