

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 25-0432.01 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 25-154

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ENHANCING ACCESS TO EDUCATOR PATHWAYS.**

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>.)

The bill requires an early childhood special education, elementary, or special education generalist licensure endorsement candidate who meets the minimum coursework standards by successfully completing a content-based or a performance-based assessment (assessments) to successfully complete certain assessments.

A candidate for an early childhood special education licensure endorsement must successfully complete no more than 2 assessments that measure:

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

- Knowledge and skills important for the safe and effective practice of a special education teacher who serves students from birth through third grade; and
- Knowledge and skills that an initial teacher must have to support the reading and writing development of students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

A candidate for an elementary licensure endorsement must successfully complete no more than 2 assessments that measure:

- Mathematical knowledge and skills that are essential for students in kindergarten through sixth grade; and
- Knowledge and skills that an initial teacher must have to support the reading and writing development of students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

A candidate for a special education generalist licensure endorsement must successfully complete no more than 2 assessments that measure:

- Basic principles of general special education and the application of those principles to realistic situations; and
- Knowledge and skills that an initial teacher must have to support the reading and writing development of students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The bill clarifies that 4-year institutions of higher education that offer programs of off-campus instruction and that have courses included in the guaranteed transfer pathway matrix or that are part of a statewide degree transfer agreement may participate in the teacher recruitment education and preparation program.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*
2
3 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-203, **amend**
4 (6) introductory portion, (6)(a), and (6)(b) introductory portion; and
5 **add (7)** as follows:
6 **22-60.5-203. Assessment of professional competencies -**
7 **multiple measures to assess professional competencies - rules.** (6) For
8 purposes of establishing minimum competency in a licensure
9 endorsement area, the state board of education shall establish minimum
10 ~~course work~~ COURSEWORK standards that align with the quality standards

1 established by the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109
2 (3). Attainment of the minimum ~~course work~~ COURSEWORK standards
3 may be shown in one of the following ways:

4 (a) For early childhood education, early childhood special
5 education, and elementary ~~teachers~~ CANDIDATES, including special
6 education generalist ~~teachers~~ CANDIDATES, demonstration of
7 competencies using the multiple measures set forth in subsection (3)(a)
8 of this section;

9 _____

10 (b) For secondary ~~teachers~~ CANDIDATES:

11 (7) (a) CURRENTLY LICENSED COLORADO TEACHERS SEEKING TO
12 ADD AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT, EARLY
13 CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT, ELEMENTARY
14 EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST
15 ENDORSEMENT MAY DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES BY
16 SUBMITTING EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVING SUFFICIENTLY HIGH EDUCATION
17 COURSEWORK GRADES ON COURSEWORK ALIGNED WITH RELEVANT
18 STANDARDS AS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

19 (b) IF THE ONE THOUSAND APPLICANT SPOTS DESCRIBED IN
20 SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION HAVE NOT BEEN FILLED, CURRENTLY
21 LICENSED COLORADO TEACHERS WHO ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL
22 LICENSURE ENDORSEMENTS MAY DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL
23 COMPETENCIES USING THE MULTIPLE MEASURES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION
24 (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

25 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108.5, **add** (8)
26 as follows:

27 **22-35-108.5. Teacher recruitment education and preparation**

1 **(TREP) program - objectives - selection criteria - rules.**

2 (8) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER A PROGRAM OF
3 OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION AND THAT HAVE COURSES INCLUDED IN THE
4 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
5 23-1-108.5 (2), OR THAT ARE PART OF A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER
6 AGREEMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-108 (7), MAY PARTICIPATE
7 IN THE TREP PROGRAM ONLY IF THE COURSES ARE OFFERED AT A TUITION
8 RATE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE TUITION RATE ESTABLISHED BY THE
9 STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL
10 EDUCATION.

11 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-110, **amend**
12 (1) as follows:

13 **22-35-110. Exclusions.** (1) ~~The provisions of~~ EXCEPT FOR
14 COURSES OFFERED AS PART OF THE TREP PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
15 SECTION 22-35-108.5, this article 35 ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to any course
16 that is offered as part of a program of off-campus instruction established
17 pursuant to section 23-1-109 (1) to (5).

18 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
21 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
22 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
23 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
24 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
25 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
26 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.