

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 18-0811.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 18-085**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Todd**, Coram, Merrifield, Zenzinger

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McLachlan**,

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PROVIDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR EDUCATORS TO**  
102 **WORK IN RURAL AREAS, 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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law allows the department of higher education to provide up to 20 financial stipends annually, not to exceed \$6,000 each, to teachers in rural schools or school districts (rural schools) who are seeking certification as a national board certified teacher, seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher, or furthering their

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

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 17, 2018

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 16, 2018

professional development plan through continuing education, and who commit to employment in a rural school for a minimum of 3 years. The bill increases the number of available stipends to 60 and expands it to include teachers completing an approved alternative licensure program leading to initial licensure and full-time employment in a rural school or board of cooperative services that serves rural schools and individuals completing the required course work leading to certification as a special services provider and employment in a rural school or a board of cooperative services that serves rural schools.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76-101, **amend**

3 (1) as follows:

4 **23-76-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 finds that:

6 (a) Teachers have a great impact on student achievement.  
7 Evidence shows that ~~teacher~~ THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS can account for the  
8 majority of variances in student learning and test scores.

9 (b) The teaching and learning conditions under which teachers  
10 practice their profession, though often overlooked, are essential elements  
11 to student achievement and ~~teacher~~ retention. These conditions must be  
12 systematically studied and addressed for Colorado to develop a critical  
13 mass of teachers who are well prepared to teach and who will remain in  
14 hardest-to-staff schools long enough to make a significant difference for  
15 students and their families.

16 (c) Research ~~also~~ demonstrates that the negative effects of ~~teacher~~  
17 shortages ~~and~~ OF TEACHERS, AS WELL AS distribution challenges, have a  
18 disproportionate impact on geographic areas of the state that are classified  
19 as "rural". ~~leaving~~ AS A RESULT, children in ~~those~~ RURAL areas ARE more  
20 likely to be taught by fewer teachers who must cover an increasingly

1 larger number of subjects AND HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO      CRITICAL  
2 SUPPORT SERVICES.

3 (d) APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
4 ARE CRITICAL FOR FILLING TEACHER SHORTAGES IN RURAL SCHOOLS AND  
5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO. RURAL SCHOOL LEADERS ARE  
6 ABLE TO PLACE QUALIFIED TEACHER CANDIDATES, INCLUDING MEMBERS  
7 OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, IN CLASSROOMS THROUGH THESE  
8 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS  
9 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND COACHING TO AN INDIVIDUAL  
10 DURING HIS OR HER YEAR-LONG TRAINING AND ALLOW ALTERNATIVE  
11 TEACHER CANDIDATES TO EARN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE WHILE  
12 SERVING IN CLASSROOMS. BY HELPING TO FILL IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN  
13 HARD-TO-STAFF RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND BY  
14 RECEIVING THE NECESSARY TRAINING, ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
15 CANDIDATES ARE ABLE TO CREATE A POSITIVE, LONGITUDINAL IMPACT ON  
16 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

17 (e) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION  
18 PATHWAYS IN COLORADO, THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
19 CANDIDATES HAS INCREASED STEADILY, WITH ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR  
20 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CANDIDATES NOW COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE  
21 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM.

22            
23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-106 as  
24 follows:

25 **23-76-106. National board certified teacher stipends -**  
26 **concurrent enrollment stipends.** (1) The department of higher  
27 education shall annually provide up to ~~twenty~~ SIXTY financial stipends,

1 not to exceed six thousand dollars each, to any:

2 (a) Teacher in a rural school or school district who is seeking  
3 certification as a national board certified teacher;

4 (b) ~~TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO IS~~  
5 ~~seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher or is a teacher~~  
6 ~~furthering his or her professional development plan through continuing~~  
7 ~~education.~~ AND WHO NEEDS ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK OR CREDENTIALS  
8 TO OBTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION; OR

9 (c) TEACHER COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM  
10 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
11 60.5 OF TITLE 22 THAT LEADS TO INITIAL LICENSURE IN THE STATE OF  
12 COLORADO AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A TEACHER IN A RURAL  
13 SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS.

14 (2) The stipends may be used to offset application fees, evaluation  
15 costs, tuition costs, and any ADDITIONAL costs associated with ~~continuing~~  
16 ~~education that are~~ OBTAINING INITIAL LICENSURE OR in support of a  
17 teacher's professional development plan; EXCEPT THAT THE STIPENDS  
18 MAY ONLY BE USED TO OFFSET COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INSTITUTION  
19 OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR AN ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM THAT  
20 IS APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

21 (3) The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent  
22 practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration  
23 the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state.

24 (4) A teacher who receives a stipend pursuant to this section  
25 must commit to teach for a total BECOME OR REMAIN EMPLOYED IN A  
26 RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS  
27 IN THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR A MINIMUM of three years. ~~in his or her~~

1 rural school or school district.

2 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2018-19 state fiscal year,  
3 \$240,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This  
4 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the  
5 department may use may use this appropriation for rural teacher  
6 recruitment, retention, and professional development.

7 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
10 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
11 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
12 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
13 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
14 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
15 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.