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FISCAL NOTE

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Prime Sponsors: Sen. Todd Bill Status: Senate Education
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Bill Topic: PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, TABOR Refund, State Expenditure, Local Government, State Transfer, Statutory Public Entity

The bill makes changes to programs intended to increase the number of educators in the state, and to the process for review and approval of educator preparation programs. The bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$14,293 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 20-158

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total), Total FTE, Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill make changes to programs intended to increase the number of educators in the state. This bill:

- makes the educator loan forgiveness programs available to graduates from any approved program that leads to educator licensure;
- removes the cap on the number of participants in the educator loan forgiveness program;
- specifies that stipends for student teachers and teachers pursuing national board certified teacher certification are not considered student financial assistance; and
- specifies that teacher fellows may choose to have their stipend awarded as either wages for employment or state-based financial aid.

Educator preparation programs. Under current law, the Department of Higher Education, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), must review each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education no more than once every five years. After a review, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) may approve, place on probationary status, or terminate the program. The bill adds that CCHE may conditionally approve a program, and that the State Board of Education may recommend to the CCHE that a program be conditionally approved. In addition, the bill:

- requires that a program that is conditionally approved or on probationary status must receive additional reviews within the five year period;
- CCHE policies must include the process for programs to change their status, and the length of time a program can be conditionally approved or on probation;
- modifies the requirements that the CCHE and CDE must consider in approving educator preparation programs in the state; and
- requires that new educator preparation programs first be reviewed between 12 and 24 months after initial approval, and that modifications to existing programs related to field experiences or program delivery be submitted to CCHE for review.

Background

There are 52 educator preparation programs in Colorado that must meet the criteria and best practices in order to be approved and reauthorized every five years. These programs include 21 programs at institutions of higher education that are overseen by DHE, with assistance from CDE, and 31 alternative educator preparation programs overseen solely by CDE.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state General Fund expenditures by \$17,300 and 0.2 FTE in FY 2020-21, and \$19,889 and 0.3 FTE in FY 2021-22 in CDE. Those costs are listed in Table 2 and discussed further below, as are the workload impacts on DHE.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 20-158**

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of Education		
Personal Services	\$14,293	\$15,882
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$3,007	\$4,007
Total Cost	\$17,300	\$19,889
Total FTE	0.2 FTE	0.3 FTE

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Colorado Department of Education. Beginning in FY 2020-21, CDE requires 0.3 FTE to work with conditionally approved programs to meet the criteria specified in statute and conduct additional reviews for new and conditionally approved programs. The estimated staff resources are based on recent experience working with educator preparation programs to meet requirements for elementary, early childhood, and special education endorsement areas, as well as the number of programs that the department oversees. FTE and costs in the first year are prorated for the General Fund paydate shift and a September 1, 2020 start date.

Department of Higher Education. The bill increases workload for the DHE and CCHE to modify procedures for approving educator preparation programs, including changing the evaluative criteria, creating a conditional approval option, and modifying review schedules for new and conditionally approved programs. This workload can be accomplished within current appropriations. In addition, the bill increases workload for DHE and the University of Northern Colorado, which runs the stipend programs, to implement the changes to the teacher stipend and fellowship programs.

Educator loan forgiveness. Removing the cap on participants and modifying the eligible programs for the educator loan forgiveness program does not require additional appropriations; however, it may result in additional competition for funds and increased workload in DHE to handle additional applications. To the extent that the General Assembly provides additional funding for the program, participation will increase beyond the current cap.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$14,293 to the Colorado Department of Education and 0.2 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Higher Education