



**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0671

Date: July 11, 2017

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. McLachlan

Bill Status: Signed into Law

Sen. Coram

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BILL TOPIC: STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADDRESS TEACHER SHORTAGES

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) study teacher shortages in Colorado, identify root causes, and recommend strategies for improving the recruitment and retention of teachers in all areas of the state. The DHE is required to collaborate with institutions of higher education, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), school districts, and other education associations and advocacy groups, to prepare a strategic plan related to teacher shortages. The strategic plan must be presented to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the State Board of Education, and the education committees of the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2017. The bill is repealed July 1, 2018.

Background

Under current law, the DHE prepares an annual report on enrollment in, graduation rates from, and the effectiveness of educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education. The Academic Policy Officer for Educator Preparation, a full time position within the DHE, collaborates with the Office of Educator Preparation, Licensing and Enforcement at the CDE to prepare the report.

Among other conclusions, the 2016 report found that the total number of graduates from teacher preparation programs in Colorado has declined for five consecutive years. New enrollment in educator preparation programs has also declined, especially in elementary education, special education, and social studies. Rural districts continue to have difficulty in recruiting and retaining teachers in historically hard-to-staff subject and licensure areas.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload for the DHE, the CDE, and institutions of higher education. Under current law, the DHE already reports annually on educator preparation, and maintains a full time employee to analyze, evaluate, and develop information related to educator professional training and retention. Thus, the preparation of a strategic plan that meets the criteria outlined in this bill can be accomplished by the DHE and its collaborative partners within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 21, 2017, and takes effect August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Higher Education