

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0748.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 20-1231

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wilson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS EDUCATOR SHORTAGES.

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 amends and repeals, in part, the existing grow your own educator program to authorize local education providers, including school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative services, to establish local grow your own educator programs that give high school students the opportunity to participate in a teacher preparation pathway in which high school students can receive college credit for course work that leads to an education or related degree or credential at a 2- or 4-year institution of higher education. The department of education, in consultation with the

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.

department of higher education, shall create a framework for local grow your own educator programs, including the accumulation of transferable postsecondary credit.

As part of the grow your own educator program, the bill creates a grow your own educator scholarship to award \$5,000 to students in higher education preparation programs who have completed not less than the final 24 credit hours required for an education or related degree or credential and agree to work as an educator in a Colorado public school upon completion of the degree or credential. In awarding scholarships, the state board shall prioritize students who participated in a local education provider's grow your own educator program while in high school and who complete their final field work in a school of the local education provider. Next, the state board shall prioritize scholarships to students who participated in a local education provider's grow your own educator program while in high school and who commit to teaching in a content shortage area or in a rural area.

The bill amends the teacher of record license to apply to students participating in a Colorado-approved program of preparation and who will be employed with a local education provider experiencing a critical teacher shortage, without the need to show that no other licensed applicant has applied. The bill removes references to the grow your own educator program that no longer apply.

The bill amends the teacher of record program to remove the requirement that a teacher participating in the program must fill a position for which no other licensed applicant has applied.

The bill directs the Colorado commission on higher education, in collaboration with the governing boards and the higher education council, to negotiate statewide degree transfer agreements so that statewide degree transfer agreements are in place no later than 2022 for educator preparation programs, including but not limited to elementary and secondary education; early childhood education; special education; speech and language pathology; occupational therapy; world languages; mathematics; science; and STEM, as defined in statute. Credits accumulated pursuant to a statewide degree transfer agreement apply to the transfer of course work, regardless of whether the course work was successfully completed at a 2-year or 4-year state institution of higher education and regardless of whether the credit is being transferred to a 2-year or 4-year state institution of higher education.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
3 **with amendments,** 22-60.5-208.5 as follows:

1 **22-60.5-208.5. Grow your own educator programs -**
2 **scholarships - duties - report - rules - legislative declaration -**
3 **definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

4 (I) COLORADO IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ITS PUBLIC
5 SCHOOLS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD;

6 (II) ENSURING THAT EACH CLASSROOM HAS A QUALIFIED,
7 WELL-TRAINED EDUCATOR IS CRITICAL TO GUARANTEEING THAT
8 COLORADO'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM REMAINS COMPETITIVE BOTH
9 NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY; AND

10 (III) A SHORTAGE OF EDUCATORS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE
11 STATE JEOPARDIZES COLORADO'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST
12 STANDARDS IN EDUCATION DELIVERY.

13 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
14 IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN CREATING
15 GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAMS THAT DEVELOP PIPELINES FOR
16 COLORADO'S EDUCATOR WORKFORCE ACROSS THE STATE BY PROVIDING
17 TEACHER PREPARATION PATHWAYS WITH ALIGNED COURSE WORK AND
18 MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO BECOME ENGAGED IN
19 TEACHING CAREERS WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL AND TO SUPPORT
20 STUDENTS WHO GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION TO BECOME EDUCATORS
21 WITH SCHOLARSHIPS THAT INCENTIVIZE RETURNING TO THEIR HOME
22 SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO TEACH.

23 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
24 REQUIRES:

25 (a) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
26 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
27 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY

1 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
2 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED
3 AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT
4 OPERATES A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

5 (b) "PROGRAM" MEANS A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM
6 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

7 (c) "SCHOLARSHIP" MEANS THE GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR
8 SCHOLARSHIP CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

9 (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
10 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL CREATE A FRAMEWORK FOR
11 GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED BY LOCAL
12 EDUCATION PROVIDERS. GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAMS MUST
13 INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
14 TO PARTICIPATE IN A TEACHER PREPARATION PATHWAY IN WHICH A HIGH
15 SCHOOL STUDENT RECEIVES COLLEGE CREDIT FOR COURSES THAT LEAD TO
16 AN EDUCATION OR RELATED DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL AT TWO- AND
17 FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. PROGRAMS MAY
18 BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS; DUAL
19 ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS; EARLY COLLEGE; THE ASCENT PROGRAM;
20 P-TECH HIGH SCHOOLS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-35.3-102; OR OTHER
21 PROGRAMS OR PATHWAYS ESTABLISHED OR AUTHORIZED IN LAW THAT
22 FACILITATE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S ACCUMULATION OF TRANSFERABLE
23 CREDIT TOWARD AN EDUCATION OR RELATED DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL.

24 (4) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
25 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE COLLABORATIONS
26 BETWEEN LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND TWO- AND FOUR-YEAR
27 STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO FACILITATE THE DELIVERY

1 OF COLLEGE COURSES THAT RESULT IN TRANSFERABLE CREDIT TOWARD AN
2 EDUCATION OR RELATED DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL.

3 (5) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO
4 ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO AWARD FIVE-THOUSAND-DOLLAR
5 SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN AN APPROVED
6 PROGRAM OF PREPARATION AND HAVE COMPLETED NOT LESS THAN THE
7 FINAL TWENTY-FOUR CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR AN EDUCATION OR
8 RELATED DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL AND AGREE TO WORK AS AN EDUCATOR
9 IN A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL UPON COMPLETION OF THE DEGREE OR
10 CREDENTIAL. IN AWARDING GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIPS,
11 THE STATE BOARD SHALL:

12 (a) FIRST, PRIORITIZE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS WHO
13 PARTICIPATED IN A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM THROUGH A
14 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER AND ACCUMULATED AT LEAST SIX COLLEGE
15 CREDIT HOURS IN THE PROGRAM TOWARD AN EDUCATION OR RELATED
16 DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL, AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION
17 PROVIDER, AND WHO COMPLETE OR ARE COMPLETING REQUIRED FIELD
18 WORK IN A SCHOOL OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER;

19 (b) SECOND, PRIORITIZE SCHOLARSHIPS TO APPLICANTS WHO
20 PARTICIPATED IN A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM THROUGH A
21 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER AND ACCUMULATED AT LEAST SIX COLLEGE
22 CREDIT HOURS IN THE PROGRAM TOWARD AN EDUCATION OR RELATED
23 DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL, AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION
24 PROVIDER, AND WHO COMMIT TO TEACHING IN A COMMUNITY THAT IS
25 EXPERIENCING A TEACHER SHORTAGE IN MATHEMATICS; WORLD
26 LANGUAGES; SPECIAL EDUCATION; EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; SPEECH
27 AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY; OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY; SCIENCE; AND

1 STEM, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1009.3; AND

2 (c) THIRD, PRIORITIZE SCHOLARSHIPS TO APPLICANTS WHO
3 PARTICIPATED IN A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAM THROUGH A
4 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER AND ACCUMULATED AT LEAST SIX COLLEGE
5 CREDIT HOURS IN THE PROGRAM TOWARD AN EDUCATION OR RELATED
6 DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL, AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION
7 PROVIDER, AND WHO COMMIT TO TEACHING IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

8 (6) THE STATE BOARD SHALL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS FROM ANY
9 UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE
10 DEPARTMENT IN THE 2019-20 STATE FISCAL YEAR FOR PURPOSES OF GROW
11 YOUR OWN EDUCATOR PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE
12 MONEY IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE AWARD OF
13 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND FISCAL YEARS
14 THEREAFTER UNTIL THE APPROPRIATION IS EXHAUSTED.

15 (7) (a) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30 IN ANY YEAR IN WHICH
16 MONEY IS AWARDED PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT
17 SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,
19 INFORMATION RELATING TO THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM,
20 WHETHER THE APPLICANT PARTICIPATED IN A GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR
21 PROGRAM, THE CRITERIA THE APPLICANT SATISFIED FOR THE AWARD, AND
22 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION RELATING TO STUDENTS AWARDED
23 SCHOLARSHIPS TO GAUGE THE SUCCESS OF GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR
24 PROGRAMS IN RECRUITING DEMOGRAPHICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED
25 GROUPS INTO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

26 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136
27 (11)(a)(I), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED

1 IN SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION IN EACH YEAR GRANTS ARE
2 AWARDED PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-201, **amend**
4 (1)(a.5)(I) as follows:

5 **22-60.5-201. Types of teacher licenses issued - term - rules.**

6 (1) The department is designated as the sole agency authorized to issue
7 the following teacher licenses to persons of good moral character:

8 (a.5) **Teacher of record license.** (I) The department shall issue
9 a teacher of record license to an applicant who:

10 (A) Is enrolled in ~~an accepted institution of higher education~~ A
11 COLORADO-APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION and has successfully
12 completed all, or substantially all, of the course work requirements for
13 completion of a bachelor's degree but has not yet completed teaching field
14 work requirements;

15 (B) Is enrolled in a ~~grow your own educator program pursuant to~~
16 ~~section 22-60.5-208.5, or in a one- or two-year teacher of record program~~
17 ~~pursuant to section 22-60.5-208.7;~~ and

18 (C) ~~The applicant~~ Is or will be employed in a position for which
19 ~~no other qualified, licensed teacher has applied~~ by a local education
20 provider, as defined in section 22-60.5-208.7 (1), that determines that
21 there is a critical teacher shortage.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-208.7,
23 **amend** (2) and (3) as follows:

24 **22-60.5-208.7. Teacher of record program - rules -**
25 **authorization - definition.** (2) A local education provider is authorized
26 to implement a one- or two-year teacher of record program and may only
27 employ a teacher of record if the local education provider has determined

1 that there is a critical teacher shortage. ~~and if there are no other qualified,~~
2 ~~licensed applicants for a vacant position.~~ The state board of education
3 shall establish rules and policies governing a teacher of record program
4 established pursuant to this section.

5 (3) A student employed in a teacher of record program established
6 pursuant to this section shall hold a teacher of record license issued
7 pursuant to section 22-60.5-201 (1)(a.5). THE TEACHER OF RECORD
8 LICENSE IS ONLY VALID IN THE JURISDICTION GOVERNED BY THE LOCAL
9 EDUCATION PROVIDER IMPLEMENTING THE TEACHER OF RECORD PROGRAM
10 IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS PARTICIPATING.

11 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-108, **add**
12 (7)(c)(III) as follows:

13 **23-1-108. Duties and powers of the commission with regard to**
14 **systemwide planning - reporting - definitions.**

15 (7) (c) (III) (A) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION, IN
16 COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNING BOARDS AND THE COUNCIL
17 CONVENED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5 (3)(a), SHALL NEGOTIATE
18 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS AND SHALL ENSURE THAT
19 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS ARE IN PLACE NO LATER
20 THAN JULY 1, 2022, FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING
21 BUT NOT LIMITED TO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION; EARLY
22 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; SPECIAL EDUCATION; SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
23 PATHOLOGY; OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY; WORLD LANGUAGES;
24 MATHEMATICS; SCIENCE; AND STEM, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
25 22-7-1009.3.

26 (B) THE STATEWIDE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHED
27 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7)(c)(III)(A) OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO THE

1 TRANSFER OF ALL COURSE WORK SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED TOWARD THE
2 DEGREE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE STATEWIDE TRANSFER AGREEMENT,
3 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE COURSE WORK WAS SUCCESSFULLY
4 COMPLETED AT A TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTION OF
5 HIGHER EDUCATION AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE CREDIT IS BEING
6 TRANSFERRED TO A TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTION OF
7 HIGHER EDUCATION.

8 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-202, **repeal**
9 (2)(b)(III) as follows:

10 **23-18-202. College opportunity fund - appropriations -**
11 **payment of stipends - reimbursement - report.** (2) (b) (III) ~~If the~~
12 ~~student is enrolled in a grow your own educator program pursuant to~~
13 ~~section 22-60.5-208.5, and the school district or charter school receives~~
14 ~~a grant pursuant to section 22-60.5-208.5 (6), the school district or charter~~
15 ~~school that employs the student as a teacher of record as described in~~
16 ~~section 22-60.5-201 (1)(a.5) during the teaching portion of the grow your~~
17 ~~own educator program is responsible for paying the student's share of~~
18 ~~total in-state tuition, not to exceed thirty-six credit hours, less any amount~~
19 ~~received in federal and state financial aid.~~

20 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal**
21 (24)(a)(IX) as follows:

22 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
23 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
24 **declaration - repeal.** (24) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
25 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2023:

26 (IX) ~~The grow your own educator program, authorized pursuant~~
27 ~~to section 22-60.5-208.5;~~

1 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.