

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6913
BILL NUMBER: SB 279

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 29, 2024
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Educator Training and Licensure.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Yoder
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program to provide grants to eligible schools for allowable expenses and to support teacher candidates interested in obtaining an initial practitioners license. The bill establishes the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Fund. It provides that the Department of Education (DOE) shall develop criteria to award grants to eligible schools. It requires DOE to assist schools in obtaining additional state, federal, or private funding.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program:* The bill establishes the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program in FY 2026. The program provides grants from the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Fund to eligible school corporations to assist existing noncertified paraprofessional school staff obtain their initial teaching license. Dependent on the appropriation received by the program, expenditures would increase. The Department of Education will also experience a workload increase to administer the program. State expenditures may be offset if teachers choose to participate in the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program rather than applying for a Transition to Teaching Scholarship.

State Education Institutions (SEI): State education institutions (SEI) with teacher preparation programs may experience a workload increase if they partner with eligible school corporations to participate in the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program. The extent of this impact is dependent on an appropriation being made to the program and the partnership agreement between the SEI and the eligible school corporation. [SEIs receive state funding through General Fund Appropriations.]

Additional Information - Under current law, the Transition to Teaching Program serves a somewhat similar population of applicants. Individuals who have a bachelor's degree and are currently employed or volunteer at a K-12 school in Indiana may apply to receive a Transition to Teaching Scholarship of up to \$10,000 to pay for their tuition at a Transition to Teaching Program. In FY 2025, the Commission for Higher Education is anticipating awarding the maximum number of Transition to Teaching Scholarships it can based on the money available in the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship Fund. However, the maximum

amount of Transition to Teaching scholarships fluctuates from year to year, dependent upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill requires at least 50% of the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program grant received by school corporations to be spent on tuition, books, and exam costs associated with teacher preparation programs. Dependent on the extent that the bill increases enrollment into SEI teacher preparation programs, SEI revenue would increase.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: School corporations that participate in the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program may experience a workload increase. The extent of this impact is dependent on an appropriation being made to the program and the partnership agreement between the school corporation and the teacher preparation program.

If the number of teachers issued licenses increases as a result of the bill's provisions, school corporations may also be able to fill vacant positions.

Explanation of Local Revenues: Beginning in FY 2026, if school corporations are awarded a grant from the Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline Program, school corporation revenue will increase. [See *Explanation of State Expenditures.*]

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; State education institutions.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Commission for Higher Education.

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