

# SENATE BILL No. 279

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-20-50.2.

**Synopsis:** Educator training and licensure. Establishes the paraprofessional to teacher licensure pipeline program (program) to provide grants to eligible schools for allowable expenses and to support teacher candidates interested in obtaining an initial practitioners license. Establishes the paraprofessional to teacher licensure pipeline fund (fund). Provides that the department of education (department) shall develop criteria to award grants to eligible schools. Requires the department to assist schools in obtaining additional state, federal, or private funding.

**Effective:** July 1, 2025.

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January 13, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# SENATE BILL No. 279

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-20-50.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2025]:  
4 **Chapter 50.2. Paraprofessional to Teacher Licensure Pipeline**  
5 **Program**  
6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "allowable expenses" means any**  
7 **of the following:**  
8 (1) **Tuition, books, and examination costs associated with a**  
9 **teacher preparation program.**  
10 (2) **Stipends for teacher mentors.**  
11 (3) **Administrative costs incurred by an eligible school or**  
12 **teacher preparation program for facilitating the program.**  
13 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "collaborative" refers to an**  
14 **organization created through a partnership between an eligible**  
15 **school and a teacher preparation program.**  
16 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "eligible school" means a school**  
17 **corporation with an established collaborative.**



1           **Sec. 4.** As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the  
2 paraprofessional to teacher licensure pipeline fund established by  
3 section 9 of this chapter.

4           **Sec. 5.** As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the  
5 paraprofessional to teacher licensure pipeline program established  
6 by section 8 of this chapter.

7           **Sec. 6.** As used in this chapter, "teacher candidate" means a  
8 noncertified paraprofessional employed by an eligible school.

9           **Sec. 7.** As used in this chapter, "teacher preparation program"  
10 includes the following:

11           (1) A program of study offered by a teacher education school  
12 or department.

13           (2) A transition to teaching program under IC 20-28-4.

14           (3) Any other course of study leading to an initial teaching  
15 license offered by an entity approved by the department.

16           **Sec. 8.** The paraprofessional to teacher licensure pipeline  
17 program is established to provide grants to eligible schools for  
18 allowable expenses and to support teacher candidates interested in  
19 obtaining an initial practitioners license.

20           **Sec. 9. (a)** The paraprofessional to teacher licensure pipeline  
21 fund is established to provide grants under the program. The fund  
22 consists of the following:

23           (1) Appropriations from the general assembly.

24           (2) Gifts to the fund.

25           (3) Grants, including grants from private entities.

26           (4) Other state funds that are transferred to the fund.

27           (b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from  
28 money in the fund.

29           (c) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not  
30 revert to the state general fund.

31           **Sec. 10.** Subject to appropriation by the general assembly, the  
32 department shall administer the program and fund.

33           **Sec. 11.** To be eligible for a grant from the fund, an eligible  
34 school must do the following:

35           (1) Submit a plan to the department that does the following:

36           (A) Identifies at least one (1) content area at the eligible  
37 school in which there is a shortage of teachers.

38           (B) Provides information concerning the teacher  
39 preparation program the eligible school has partnered  
40 with to form a collaborative.

41           (C) Designates an individual from the collaborative who  
42 will assist the teacher candidate and provide program



- 1                    **guidance.**
- 2                    **(D) Estimates the number of teacher candidates likely to**
- 3                    **complete the program.**
- 4                    **(E) Estimates the number of mentor teachers necessary to**
- 5                    **support each teacher candidate.**
- 6                    **(F) Provides evidence of a written billing agreement with**
- 7                    **a teacher preparation program that details the cost for**
- 8                    **each teacher candidate cohort and prorated tuition costs**
- 9                    **if a teacher candidate does not successfully complete the**
- 10                   **program.**
- 11                   **(2) Apply to the department in the manner and on a form**
- 12                   **prescribed by the department.**
- 13                   **Sec. 12. The department shall develop criteria to award grants**
- 14                   **to eligible schools for allowable expenses. The criteria developed by**
- 15                   **the department must include the following:**
- 16                   **(1) A requirement that at least fifty percent (50%) of the**
- 17                   **funds awarded to an eligible school will be used for tuition,**
- 18                   **books, and examination costs associated with a teacher**
- 19                   **preparation program.**
- 20                   **(2) Commitment from the teacher candidate to fulfill a service**
- 21                   **obligation by teaching full time for a school corporation in**
- 22                   **Indiana for two (2) years.**
- 23                   **(3) Any other criteria the department considers relevant.**
- 24                   **Sec. 13. Eligible schools shall develop an outreach plan to**
- 25                   **recruit:**
- 26                   **(1) teacher candidates for participation in the program; and**
- 27                   **(2) teachers to assist in mentoring teacher candidates who are**
- 28                   **participating in the program.**
- 29                   **Sec. 14. At a collaborative's request, the department shall**
- 30                   **provide technical assistance to a collaborative seeking to obtain**
- 31                   **additional state, federal, or private funding for the program.**
- 32                   **Sec. 15. A teacher candidate who fails to comply with the service**
- 33                   **obligation requirement described in section 12 of this chapter shall**
- 34                   **be required to repay a prorated amount of the awarded grant.**

