



February 12, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create a fund to reimburse an educator who receives a qualifying score on a required assessment, and who receives a license to teach or an endorsement, in an amount equal to the cost of the assessment. Requires DOE to report to the State Board of Education the number of educators reimbursed under this section and the type of license or endorsement earned by each educator by September 1, 2024 and subsequent years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$2,367,500/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-5-5605 requires all students desiring a license to teach to pass both a test that measures professional knowledge and a standardized or criterion-referenced test for each desired area of endorsement.
- It is estimated that an average of 4,521 new educators obtain an academic license in Tennessee through an educator preparation provider (EPP) pathway.
- The majority of academic licensure areas require two assessments: one content area assessment and one which measures pedagogy; occupational licensure areas require one assessment.
- These assessments cost approximately \$150 per administration. The reimbursement cost for initial academic licenses are estimated as follows:
 - \$537,300 for license types requiring 2 exams (1,791 x \$300);
 - \$459,450 for license types requiring 3 exams (1,021 x \$450);
 - \$672,000 for license types requiring 3 exams) [1,400 x (\$300 + \$180 for content knowledge in elementary education)]; and
 - \$185,400 for license types requiring 4 exams (309 x \$600).
- The total estimated reimbursement costs for initial academic licenses is \$1,854,150 (\$537,300 + \$459,450 + \$672,000 + \$185,400).
- There are 1,799 applications for additional endorsement approved in Tennessee each year. Additional endorsements require that educators submit qualifying scores on required content assessments, which cost on average, \$150 per administration.
- The reimbursement cost for additional academic licenses are estimated as follows:
 - \$169,200 for license types requiring 1 exam (1,128 x \$150);
 - \$176,400 for license types requiring 2 exams (588 x \$300);

- \$18,150 for license types requiring 2 exams (\$180 for content knowledge in elementary education) (55 x \$330); and
- \$12,600 for license types requiring 3 exams (28 x \$450).
- The total estimated reimbursement costs for additional academic licenses is \$376,350 (\$169,200 + \$176,400 + \$18,150 + \$12,600).
- Approximately 198 new educators obtain an occupational teaching license through a Tennessee pathway requiring 2 exams while 6 obtain an endorsement requiring 1 exam.
- The reimbursement cost for occupational initial licenses and additional endorsement is estimated as follows:
 - \$59,400 for license type requiring 2 exams (198 x \$300); and
 - \$900 for endorsement type requiring 1 exam (6 x \$150).
- The total reimbursement cost for occupational initial licenses and additional endorsement is \$60,300 (\$59,400 + \$900).
- Reimbursing qualified educators that receive a qualifying score on assessments, and who receive an endorsement or license to teach, will increase state expenditures by \$2,290,800 in FY23-24 and subsequent years (\$1,854,150 + \$376,350 + \$60,300).
- DOE will require one Education Consultant 1 position beginning in FY23-24 to administer funds, ensure only qualified educators receive funding, obtain access to funds, and to effectively communicate benefits and processes of the program externally. Educators may seek initial licensure or additional endorsement throughout the year, so this program will need consistent administration and monitoring.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$76,706 (\$59,496 salary + \$17,210 benefits) in FY23-24 subsequent years.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$2,367,506 in FY23-24 and subsequent years (\$2,290,800 + \$76,706).
- No impact to local government.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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