


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0715 **Date:** June 24, 2011
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Hamner **Bill Status:** Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Jonathan Senft (303-866-3523)
 Sen. Nicholson; White

TITLE: CONCERNING MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE ISSUANCE OF EDUCATOR LICENSES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds		
Educator Licensure Cash Fund	Up to \$112,000*	Up to \$112,000*
FTE Position Change	(1.0)	(1.0)
Effective Date: The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 4, 2011.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

* Reflects difference between cost savings and new expenditures. The higher figure reflects the maximum estimated workload.

Summary of Legislation

This bill changes the administrative procedure when educators are renewing licenses. It allows educators to submit an affidavit affirming they have completed their professional development requirements, when currently these requirements must be independently confirmed by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The bill also eliminates the requirement for educators to demonstrate lawful presence in the United States when renewing the license.

The bill establishes the legislature's intent that the license applications be processed in 6 weeks or less. It also gives the CDE continuous spending authority for moneys in the Educator Licensure Cash Fund from FY 2011-12 to FY 2013-14 in order to reduce license processing time, but requires that all spending be shown in the Long Bill for informational purposes. Finally, the bill specifies that staff hired to accelerate license processing times may not have contracts that extend beyond June 30, 2014.

State Expenditures

This bill reduces state expenditures by \$28,351 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2011-12 and beyond. The bill also increases state expenditures by at least \$28,000 from FY 2011-12 to 2013-14 in order to hire temporary contract staff. The bill reduces the amount of staff time needed to process educators' licenses by eliminating the requirement that the CDE review and confirm professional development activities. The CDE processes 12,000 licenses each year and each license requires approximately 10 minutes to process. This bill will reduce time needed to process licenses by approximately 2,000 hours each year.

The bill declares a target of six weeks to issue new licenses and renewals, and provides rules for contract hires to clear up the backlog, which now averages four months. This provision has both a short-term and long-term impact. In the short term, it is assumed that the CDE will hire one-to-five contractors at an approximate cost of \$28,000 each, per year, to address the backlog. In the long term, the bill would reduce expenditures by \$28,359 and 1.0 FTE after the backlog is corrected.

State Appropriations

For FY 2011-12, this bill reduces the need for state appropriations to the Department of Education from the Educator Licensure Cash Fund by \$28,351 and 1.0 FTE. Because this bill provides continuous spending authority to department, no appropriation is necessary to cover new contract hires.

Departments Contacted

Education