

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0709 **Date:** January 29, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Lambert **Bill Status:** Senate Finance
 Rep. Hamner **Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: EDUCATOR LICENSURE CASH FUND CONTINUOUS APPROP

| Fiscal Impact Summary* | FY 2015-2016 | FY 2016-2017 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| State Revenue | | |
| State Expenditures | | |
| FTE Position Change | | |
| Appropriation Required: None. | | |

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

The Educator Licensure Cash Fund is subject to annual appropriation by the General Assembly to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), except for the years FY 2011-12 through FY 2014-15, when the moneys were continuously appropriated. This bill, **recommended by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC)**, grants the department three more years of continuous appropriation authority over moneys in the fund. The bill also extends the requirements that the CDE report to the General Assembly about its expenditures from the fund and to hire independent contractors, rather than employees, to reduce educator license processing times.

Background

During the CDE's hearing on December 18, 2014, the JBC discussed sponsoring legislation to extend the continuous appropriations for the Office of Professional Services (the educator licensure program) beyond FY 2014-15. Current law continuously appropriates the Educator Licensure Cash Fund (supported by educator license fees) to the CDE for FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15. Without a change in statute, the licensure program will be subject to legislative appropriation beginning in FY 2015-16.

State Expenditures

The bill does not create new expenditures for the CDE. Since the bill changes the appropriation process for this fund, there is a state fiscal impact on expenditures; however, the amount of spending and the program's administration are unchanged.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education