



Colorado Legislative Council Staff  
**NO FISCAL IMPACT**

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**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. King

**Bill Status:** House Education

Sen. Windels

**Fiscal Analyst:** Harry Zeid (303-866-4753)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING EDUCATOR LICENSURE.

### Summary of Assessment

This bill makes several modifications to the Colorado Educator Licensing Act.

**Endorsement in special education.** Current law requires an applicant for a license endorsement in special education to complete a program in special education. Section 1 of the bill requires the applicant to complete the course work and assessments identified by rule of the State Board of Education.

**Complaint procedure.** Section 2 of the bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to establish a procedure for receiving complaints against persons applying for or holding educator licenses and certificates. The rules would include procedures for investigation and for granting notice and a hearing if the Department of Education determines there is probable cause to proceed with a formal charge.

**Return to active license status after active military duty.** When a person converts his or her professional educator license to inactive status because of being called into active military duty, Section 3 of the bill requires that the period of time remaining on the license be adjusted for the time that the person spent in active military duty.

**License renewal.** For purposes of professional development activities, Section 4 of the bill also states that the Department of Education may accept course work from any community, technical, or junior college, not just those in the statewide system. Additionally, a license holder must demonstrate that any educational travel he or she submits as a professional development activity is related to the license holder's endorsement area. The State Board of Education must adopt rules requiring professional development activities be related to the license holder's endorsement area knowledge or delivery skills in the license holder's endorsement area or in literacy.

Sections 4 and 5 of the bill state that an applicant for educator license renewal be required to submit a complete set of fingerprints with the renewal application, unless the applicant has previously submitted a set. The Department of Education must forward fingerprints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining a fingerprint-based criminal history record check. Fingerprint submittals for both initial applications as well as renewals are already required as part of Section 22-60.5-103, C.R.S. These sections of the bill merely restate the fingerprint requirement for renewal applications under one additional section of statute. Since all educator license renewals require fingerprints to be previously submitted or to be submitted with the application, no additional

renewal applications or fingerprint application fees will occur as a result of the bill. Therefore, these sections are assessed as having no fiscal impact.

***Authorizations.*** Section 6 of the bill makes a temporary teacher eligibility authorization valid for one year, and allows for two additional one-year renewals rather than current eligibility for one three-year period. The bill also expands the criteria for a temporary authorization to make it available to a person who is eligible to hold a certificate or license as an educator in another state.

***Summary.*** The bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact. The bill is considered to be a clean-up bill to clarify several issues of current law that were adopted as part of HB03-1114, which was signed into law in 2003. The bill becomes effective upon signature of the Governor.

### **Departments Contacted**

Education      Military Affairs