

First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 15-1001.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 15-1349

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Fields,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAMS IN HIGH
102 SCHOOLS THAT ENCOURAGE STUDENT EXPLORATION OF THE
103 TEACHING PROFESSION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

As part of the concurrent enrollment and accelerating students through concurrent enrollment programs, school districts, boards of cooperative services, district charter schools, and institute charter schools (local education providers) are encouraged to enter into an agreement with a teacher preparation program at institutions of higher education in

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Colorado to provide a grow your own teacher program (program), as defined in the bill. The program allows upper-grade high school students to take a college credit-bearing course or courses designed to increase the student's awareness of the teaching profession and opportunities to pursue teaching by taking a course affiliated with a college with an undergraduate teacher licensure program. The bill outlines the elements of a successful program, which elements include a year-long curriculum, student field experience teaching in elementary schools, and mentoring of students through the college selection and application process.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-35-109.7 as
3 follows:

4 **22-35-109.7. Grow your own teacher program - definitions -**
5 **legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND
6 DECLARES THAT:

7 (a) NATIONAL RESEARCH INDICATES THAT FEWER INDIVIDUALS
8 ARE CHOOSING TO ENTER THE TEACHER WORKFORCE DUE, IN PART, TO A
9 DECLINE IN PUBLIC OPINION OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION;

10 (b) COLORADO IS EXPERIENCING TEACHER SHORTAGES IN THE
11 CRITICAL AREAS OF TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, SPECIAL
12 EDUCATION, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE, AND IN
13 TEACHERS WHO ARE BILINGUAL;

14 (c) FURTHER, MALE TEACHERS ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN
15 COLORADO, AND SPECIFICALLY, AFRICAN AMERICAN, LATINO, AND
16 NATIVE AMERICAN MALE TEACHERS ARE GROSSLY UNDERREPRESENTED;

17 (d) PURSUANT TO HOUSE BILL 14-1175, ENACTED IN 2014, THE
18 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO REVIEW AND
19 DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE RECRUITMENT,
20 PREPARATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND RETENTION OF HIGH-QUALITY

1 MINORITY TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS
2 THE STATE. THE RESULTING REPORT BY AUGENBLICK, PALAICH AND
3 ASSOCIATES, TITLED "KEEPING UP WITH THE KIDS: INCREASING MINORITY
4 TEACHER REPRESENTATION IN COLORADO" WAS RELEASED IN DECEMBER
5 2014;

6 (e) SOME OF THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIES
7 HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REPORT INCLUDED RECRUITING FROM WITHIN
8 COMMUNITIES IN NEED OF TEACHERS AND DEVELOPING GROW YOUR OWN
9 TEACHER PROGRAMS;

10 (f) ONE SUCCESSFUL GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM IS THE
11 PATHWAYS2TEACHING PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS A COLLABORATIVE
12 EFFORT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
13 IN THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
14 SINCE 2010, THE PROGRAM HAS SERVED NEARLY 300 COLORADO HIGH
15 SCHOOL STUDENTS, MOST OF WHOM LIVE IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES
16 AND MANY OF WHOM ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILIES TO GRADUATE
17 FROM HIGH SCHOOL. TWO-THIRDS OF THE STUDENTS ARE BILINGUAL, AND
18 OVER FORTY PERCENT ARE MALE. THROUGH THE PROGRAM, MANY
19 UNDERSERVED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE CONSIDERED BECOMING
20 TEACHERS.

21 (g) A GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM IN RURAL SCHOOL
22 DISTRICTS MAY ALSO BE AN EFFECTIVE TOOL TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN
23 TEACHERS COMMITTED TO TEACHING IN RURAL DISTRICTS; AND

24 (h) BECAUSE OF THE STRONG EVIDENCE-BASED CONNECTION
25 BETWEEN STRONG GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAMS AND STUDENT
26 ENGAGEMENT IN TEACHING AS A CAREER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
27 DECLARES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO

1 PARTNER WITH UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS TO
2 PROVIDE MORE STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER
3 PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT COLORADO.

4 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
5 REQUIRES:

6 (a) "GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM" MEANS A
7 CREDIT-BEARING COLLEGE COURSE OR SERIES OF COURSES OFFERED TO
8 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY TRAINED HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS THAT
9 ARE DESIGNED TO INCREASE STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE TEACHING
10 PROFESSION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE TEACHING CAREERS THROUGH
11 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAMS ARE
12 OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT
13 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO.

14 (b) "TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS" MEANS AN EDUCATOR
15 PREPARATION UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT AN INSTITUTION OF
16 HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-121,
17 C.R.S.

18 (3) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ENCOURAGED TO ENTER
19 INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH ONE OR MORE TEACHER
20 PREPARATION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER
21 PROGRAM TO INCREASE STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE TEACHING
22 PROFESSION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE TEACHING CAREERS THROUGH
23 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

24 (b) SUCCESSFUL GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAMS MAY
25 INCLUDE:

26 (I) OPEN-ENROLLMENT WITHOUT ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES FOR
27 ALL INTERESTED ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 1 OR ASCENT STUDENTS;
- 2 (II) COLLEGE CREDIT-BEARING COURSES THAT TRANSFER INTO
3 UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS;
- 4 (III) A YEAR-LONG CURRICULUM THAT IS CULTURALLY
5 RESPONSIVE AND ENCOURAGES THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH AND
6 WRITING SKILLS;
- 7 (IV) STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORTS AND COLLEGE READINESS
8 DEVELOPMENT;
- 9 (V) MENTORING OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM AND
10 CONNECTIONS WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN THE TEACHER
11 PREPARATION PROGRAM;
- 12 (VI) COLLEGE EXPLORATION, INCLUDING COLLEGE TOURS AND
13 ADMISSION GUIDANCE;
- 14 (VII) STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM BY THE COLLABORATING
15 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM;
- 16 (VIII) SIGNIFICANT STUDENT FIELD EXPERIENCE THROUGH
17 TEACHING IN LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, SUPPORTED THROUGH CLOSE
18 COLLABORATION WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS;
- 19 (IX) FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE
20 PROGRAM; AND
- 21 (X) INSTRUCTOR TRAINING IN THE ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL
22 GROW YOUR OWN PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE COLLABORATING TEACHER
23 PREPARATION PROGRAM WITH ONGOING INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT.
- 24 (c) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ENCOURAGED TO AUTHORIZE
25 AND REIMBURSE THE COST OF INSTRUCTOR TRAINING FOR A GROW YOUR
26 OWN TEACHER PROGRAM AS PART OF EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL
27 DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING.

1 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.