

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes to fund alternative teacher compensation, teacher development and evaluation, teacher grants and loan forgiveness, a job board, and a paraprofessional pathway to licensure. Also proposes greater flexibility in licensing science teachers and directs MnSCU to report on its special education educator programs and outcomes. Appropriates money to the commissioners of education and the office of higher education for several of these purposes.

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- 1 Citation.** Allows sections 1 to 13 to be cited as the “Teacher Shortage Act.”
- 2 Qualifying plan.** Allows interested districts and groups of districts to develop an educational improvement plan to qualify for teacher development and evaluation aid. Requires the plan to include measures for improve principal performance, among other things.
- 3 Teacher development and evaluation aid; alternative compensation revenue.**
 - Subd. 1 Alternative teacher compensation revenue amount.** Makes technical and conforming changes.
 - Subd. 1a. Teacher development and evaluation aid.** (a), (b), and (c), establish formulas for calculating teacher development and evaluation aid for eligible districts and groups of districts.
 - (d) To qualify for teacher development and evaluation aid, requires districts and groups of districts to develop an educational improvement plan, implement an alternative

Section

teacher professional pay system, or demonstrate to the education commissioner the district is using the aid for teacher development and evaluation activities.

Subd. 3. Revenue timing; applications; implementation. (a) Strikes nonconforming language related to alternative teacher compensation aid.

Subd. 4. Charter school alternative teacher compensation aid. Strikes nonconforming language related to alternative teacher compensation aid.

Subd. 4a. Aid for cooperative units. (a) Establishes the aid amount for a group of districts with an approved plan.

(b) Establishes the teacher development and evaluation aid formula for a group of districts.

Subd. 4b. Principals. (a) Establishes the alternative principal compensation aid amount for a district or a group of districts with an approved plan.

(b) Establishes the principal development and evaluation aid formula for a district or group of districts.

Subd. 5. Alternative teacher compensation levy. Establishes the alternative teacher compensation levy amount for a district receiving alternative teacher compensation revenue.

Subd. 6. Alternative teacher compensation equalization aid. Establishes the alternative teacher compensation equalization formula and aid amount for a district.

Subd. 7. Flexibility for existing programs. Allows school districts and charter schools with an approved alternative teacher professional pay system to transfer funding available under this section between its alternative teacher professional pay program and its teacher development and evaluation activities.

Makes this section effective for fiscal year 2017.

4 **Grants to student teachers in shortage areas.**

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the office of higher education commissioner to establish a student teacher grant program.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Requires an eligible applicant: to be enrolled in a Minnesota teacher preparation program enabling a program graduate to teach in a Minnesota school district with a teacher shortage; agree to teach in a shortage area for at least five years after graduating from the program; and demonstrate financial need. Defines shortage area to mean an inadequate supply of licensed personnel in a given licensure area as determined by the commissioner.

Subd. 3. Administration; repayment. Directs the office of higher education to establish the application process and the stipend amount based on the funds available and the number of applicants. Requires a stipend recipient who fails to complete five years of teaching in a shortage area to repay a prorated portion of the total stipend.

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- 5** **Teacher shortage loan forgiveness.** Leaves blank the teacher loan forgiveness program appropriation in fiscal year 2017.
- 6** **Teacher development and evaluation aid; alternative compensation aid.** Leaves blank to teacher development and evaluation aid and the alternative teacher compensation aid appropriation in fiscal year 2017.
- 7** **Collaborative urban educator.** Leaves blank the collaborative urban educator appropriations.
- 8** **Statewide school teacher and administrator job board.** Directs the board of teaching to contract for an electronic job board to post job openings for prekindergarten through grade 12 teaching and administrative positions in Minnesota.
- 9** **Paraprofessional pathway to teacher licensure.** Directs the education commissioner to establish a grant program for school districts to offer a paraprofessional pathway to teacher licensure or a “Grow Your Own” new teacher program designed to allow district paraprofessionals holding a bachelor’s degree to pursue a teaching license while continuing to work in the district.
- 10** **Board of teaching to amend science licensure rules.** Directs the board of teaching to use the expedited rule making process to amend its rules governing the licensing of science teachers to allow a teacher holding a grade 9 through 12 science license, with at least three years of teaching experience, to pass an exam obtain a general science license for grades 5 through 8.
- 11** **Special education educator programs report.** Directs the MnSCU chancellor to report to the education committees of the legislature by 12/15/16 on available special education educator programs and the number of program graduates during the preceding five years.
Makes this section effective immediately.
- 12** **Office of higher education; appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified general fund amount in fiscal year 2017 to the commissioner of the office of higher education for student teacher grants.
- 13** **Appropriations.** Appropriates unspecified general fund amounts in fiscal year 2017 to the education commissioner for the statewide job board and the paraprofessional pathway to teacher licensure.