

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Special Revenue Fund; Boards of Teaching and School Administrators

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### Overview

The Board of Teaching (BoT) and the Board of School Administrators (BOSA) are statutorily created boards charged with overseeing the licensure of teachers and school administrators. Both boards charge license fees to applicants. Those fees are currently paid by the applicants into the state general fund. The funds for the operations of the two boards are then annually appropriated back out of the general fund to the commissioner of education and transferred through a rider on the agency appropriation to each board.

Under current law, a number of the data processing and administrative functions of BoT are performed by the teacher licensure division of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and legislative direction for teacher licensure activities is split among the BoT and MDE.

This bill creates an account in the special revenue for deposit of teacher and administrator licensure fees and then directly appropriates the money back out of the account to the two boards and has no net effect on overall appropriations.

### Section

- 1 Fees; Board of School Administrators.** Requires BOSA to deposit all license fees collected from school administrators in the new educator licensure account in the special revenue fund (instead of the state general fund).

## Section

- 2        **Temporary military license.** Requires BoT to deposit any fees received for temporary military licenses in the new account for educator licensure in the special revenue fund (instead of the state general fund).
- 3        **Background checks.** Requires any fees for teacher background checks to be deposited in a new account in the special education revenue fund for educator licensure background checks.
- 4        **Special revenue fund accounts; educator licensure and background checks.** Creates an educator licensure account in the special revenue fund. Requires all licensure fees paid to MDE, BoT, and BOSA to be deposited in the fund. Creates a background check account in the special revenue fund and appropriates all money out of the fund to the commissioner of education for payment to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for educator background checks.
- 5        **Licensure applications.** Requires the fees paid by teacher applicants to be deposited in the new account in the special revenue fund. Clarifies language.
- 6        **Licensure via portfolio.** Requires fees paid by teacher applicants for licensure via portfolio to be deposited in the educator licensure account in the special revenue fund.
- 7        **Annual appropriation.** Annually appropriates all money from teacher license via portfolio fees to BoT.
- 8        **Appropriations; Department of Education.** Beginning in fiscal year 2017, removes riders on MDE agency budget for transfer to BoT and BOSA as these organizations will now receive direct appropriations. Annually appropriates any estimated “surplus” balance from the educator licensure account in the special revenue fund to the commissioner of education to defray costs of MDE’s teacher licensure activities.
- 9        **Transfers.** Requires the commissioner of management and budget to transfer any balance from the current special account for licensure via portfolio to the new educator licensure account.
- 10       **Appropriation; Board of Teaching.** Appropriates \$718,000 in fiscal year 2017 from new educator licensure account to BoT for the board’s operations (this is the amount of the current law rider for BoT).
- 11       **Appropriation; Board of School Administrators.** Appropriates \$231,000 in fiscal year 2017 from new educator licensure account to BOSA for the board’s operations (this is the amount of the current law rider for BOSA).