

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1140

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 12, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1213, IDAHO CODE, TO AUTHORIZE THE PARAPROFESSIONAL PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 12, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1213, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1213. PARAPROFESSIONAL PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION. (1) The legislature finds that in order to address the challenges of elementary and secondary teacher recruitment in Idaho, a program to create accelerated routes to certification for paraprofessionals working in school districts and charter schools should be created. Pursuant to this section, a program shall be developed by the state board of education that will provide eligible paraprofessionals with an accelerated pathway to certification.

(2) A school district or charter school may sponsor an individual who meets the minimum paraprofessional requirements set out in rules promulgated by the state board of education. An accelerated education plan will be developed in collaboration with the paraprofessional, the paraprofessional's mentor and an approved teacher preparation program that will lead to standard certification.

(3) A school district or charter school employing a candidate in the paraprofessional pathway to certification program shall ensure the participant is under the supervision and mentoring of an individual with a standard instructional certificate. Paraprofessionals participating in this program may serve as the instructional lead in a classroom, but the supervising or mentoring teacher remains the teacher of record.

(4) The paraprofessional pathway to certification program shall include district-funded tuition assistance for a minimum of three (3) courses identified in the paraprofessional's accelerated education plan or a maximum total of nine (9) credit hours per qualified participant per year.

(5) The state board of education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.