

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6741
BILL NUMBER: SB 255

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 9, 2025
BILL AMENDED: Apr 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Education Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Deery
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Davis

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to grant an initial practitioner license to an individual who:

- (1) Holds a bachelor's degree with a major in any combination of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
- (2) Successfully completes a total of at least nine academic credits regarding certain instruction in teaching; and
- (3) Meets other specified requirements.

The bill also provides that the DOE may grant a license to teach a high school level course to an individual who completes a licensure pathway established by the DOE.

The bill changes certain requirements regarding the reporting of a bullying "incident" to the reporting of a bullying "investigation". It requires discipline rules to include:

- (1) Provisions to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parents of the involved students that the school is investigating a possible incident of bullying or similar misconduct before the end of the next school day after the school becomes aware of the possible incident; and
- (2) Timetables for reporting the conclusion of a bullying investigation to the parents of both the targeted student and the alleged perpetrator in an expedited manner that is before the end of the following school day after the conclusion of the investigation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Teacher Licensing* :The bill impacts workload at DOE and the State Board of Education in FY 2026 to revise rules and standards related to teacher licensing. The DOE may need to establish new standards for the requirements related to job shadowing, field experiences, teaching cooperatives and/or student teaching for granting initial practitioner licenses for teachers in certain content areas. The DOE may also need to establish rules related to establishing a licensure pathway for teachers that may teach certain high school courses. These responsibilities are within the routine functions of the agencies and should be able to be accomplished with existing resources.

State Educational Institutions (SEI): If an SEI chooses to modify existing curriculum, or establishes new courses within a teacher preparation program for STEM teachers due to the bill, costs may be incurred. This is within the routine functions of the SEIs and can be accomplished with existing resources. [SEIs receive state funding through General Fund appropriations].

Explanation of State Revenues: *Licensing Fees*: If licensing applications and exams increase due to the provisions of the bill, fee revenue could increase. The impact is anticipated to be minor. Fees for an initial license and exam are subject to a licensing fee of \$36.72 plus processing fees. Teacher licensing fees are distributed to the Professional Standards Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Teacher Licenses*: If the bill enables schools to hire additional teachers, personnel costs may increase. This assumes that these individuals may be hired at a higher cost than would have occurred if the school previously hired individuals in an adjunct capacity, as long-term substitutes without benefits, or by emergency permit. The impact is likely minor.

(Revised) *Bullying*: Beginning in FY 2026, school corporations made aware of a possible bullying incident are required to notify the parents of the involved students before the start of the next school day. The bill also requires schools to report to the parents of both the targeted student and the alleged perpetrator before the end of the following school day, after the conclusion of a investigation into a bullying incident [rather than within five business days as in current law]. These requirements impact workload but should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations.

Additional Information - Data from the DOE 2022-2023 Annual Licensing Report indicates that 22% (1,105) of emergency permits issued during the 2022-2023 school year were in STEM-related content areas, as compared to 7.7% (616) of initial practitioner licenses issued in STEM-related content areas.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; State Board of Education; State Educational Institutions.

Local Agencies Affected: Public schools.

Information Sources: Indiana Department of Education 2022-2023 Annual Licensing Report: <https://www.in.gov/doe/files/2022-2023-IDOE-Annual-Licensing-Report.pdf>

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