



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 141

PRINTER'S NO. 966

PRIME SPONSOR: Schlossberg

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	\$0	\$382,000; See Fiscal Impact

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 141 amends the Public School Code to create the Grow-Your-Own Educators Grant Program.

### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 141 adds Article XV-K.1 – Grow-Your-Own Educators Grant Program to the Public School Code, and it adds the Grow-Your-Own Grant Program as an eligible use of funds from the existing Talent Recruitment Account, with the stipulations that funding is geographically distributed throughout the commonwealth and that not less than 15 percent is allocated for the Talent Recruitment Grant Program.

House Bill 141's Grow-Your-Own Educators Grant Program allows a partnership – defined as a collaboration between at least one school district and an institution of higher education with an approved educator preparation program – to apply to the Department of Education for competitive grants for the purpose of establishing or expanding any of the four structured grow-your-own educator career pathways identified and detailed in the bill:

- High school student-to-aspiring educator pathway
- Aspiring-to-enacting educator pathway
- Education support professional-to-educator pathway
- Community member-to-education support professional pathway

A partnership must include at least one school district and one institution of higher education, but it may also include other school entities, such as charter schools, approved private schools, area career and technical schools, or intermediate units, as well as additional institutions of higher education, community organizations, or employee organizations. The Department of Education shall give priority to partnerships that include school entities that are or have been in financial recovery, have schools identified for comprehensive or additional targeted support and improvement, have shortages of educators, or have cooperated with an employee organization in the design of the proposed educator career pathway program.

The Department of Education's duties are to provide technical assistance and adopt guidelines, standards, and application requirements. The department's deadline to make awards annually is in December, and by the conclusion of the following December, the department shall submit to the legislature and publicly post an annual report that includes an assessment of the program, recommendations for improvements, relevant data, participant demographic information, and grant details.

The Grow-Your-Own Educators grants are not an entitlement, shall not be used to supplant spending on any existing programs, and will not be included in the charter school tuition rate calculation.

House Bill 141 takes effect in 90 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 141 provides for the framework for a new Grow-Your-Own Educators Grant Program, but it does not include an appropriation for program grants.

From an administrative perspective, Department of Education staff expect the new requirements in House Bill 141 related to developing guidelines, creating standards, reviewing applications, providing technical assistance, and publishing a comprehensive annual report to require two additional staff members, one grant evaluator and technical assistance provider and one administrative support staff. These personnel related costs are estimated to be \$282,000, which will be an annually recurring cost. Additionally, the department will incur an estimated one-time operational cost of \$100,000 to establish the program in the eGrants system.

Together, these personnel and operating costs are estimated to be \$382,000 in 2023/24 due to the effective date of 90 days after enactment. Beyond 2023/24, the annual costs will be about \$300,000 for the two new staff. The Talent Recruitment Account is a restricted account within the General Fund. The eligible use of Talent Recruitment Account funds in Section 1505-K of the Public School Code does not explicitly include a provision allowing the department to use the funds for the administration of the program. To fund general government operations for the Department of Education, Act 1A of 2022 provided \$36.404 million.

Enactment of this legislation will only have a fiscal impact on local school entities that pursue a competitive grant that does not cover the full cost of establishing or expanding an educator career pathway.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** May 1, 2023

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*