



State Fiscal Note for Bill Number: 2018-H-7060

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Thursday, March 08, 2018

Date Due: Sunday, March 18, 2018

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2018	\$0	FY 2018	N/A
FY 2019	See Below	FY 2019	N/A
FY 2020	See Below	FY 2020	N/A

Explanation by State Budget Office: This Act amends RIGL 16-11-2, entitled "Examinations – Issuance of Certificates," requiring the Rhode Island Department of Elementary Education (RIDE) to pay for the fees associated with examinations required for teacher certification for individuals who possess a bachelor's degree.

Comments on Sources of Funds: The proposed fee waiver would be financed with general revenues, allocated to the ACES (Administration of the Advanced Comprehensive Education Strategy) program of RIDE.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions: All R.I. public-school teachers are required to be certified per RIGL 16-11-1. Certification requires candidates take/pass examinations determined by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. The current exams required are variances of the "Praxis test," each specific to a subject area, and administered by ETS (Educational Testing Service), a non-profit vendor. This legislation dictates that the associated test fees be waived if a candidate has a bachelor's degree. Therefore, the financial responsibility for this test will fall to the Department.

Due to ETS being a vendor, demographic data of test takers and overall test participation is not readily available. Therefore, the presumed fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate, especially for the prescribed cohort of applicants. Note, the Rhode Island postsecondary curriculum requires students to take/pass the Praxis test prior to degree completion. For example, Rhode Island College teaching candidates must pass all Praxis tests to participate in student teaching. This legislation does not affect students completing baccalaureate work with no prior degree.

Below is a tentative general revenue estimate based on the following assumptions:

FY 2018	\$0
FY 2019	\$40,000 - \$205,000
FY 2020	\$40,000 - \$205,000

The above estimates are calculated using the total full-time equivalent (FTE) public-school teachers of the state (National Center for Education Statistics, 2015-2016 data) and a proxy cost to simulate fees associated with taking Praxis tests. The range is created by using 1.0 percent vs 5.0 percent of current teachers, and multiplying that percentage by \$390, which represents three tests each estimated at \$130, calculated through a cost average of different tests.

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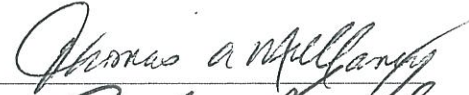
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Estimate = (Total Teacher FTE * %) * 3 Tests
\$40,774 = (10,455 * .01) * \$390
\$203,872 = (10,455 * .05) * \$390

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

As discussed above, this bill presents an indeterminable fiscal impact, due to the lack of available data. However, a low-confidence estimate is provided in the previous section.

Budget Office Signature:



Fiscal Advisor Signature:

