

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016**

Bill Number: H.872 Sec.47 Name of Bill: An Act Relating to Executive Branch Fees

Agency/ Dept: Education Author of Bill Review: Patrick Halladay

Date of Bill Review: May, 9 2016 Related Bills and Key Players \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Bill: (check one): ☐ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body ☒ As passed by both

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**Recommended Position:**

☒ Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in #8 below

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**Analysis of Bill**

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1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** Section 47 of H.872 proposes new fees assessed to all teacher education programs in Vermont to cover the costs associated with their accreditation through the Results Oriented Approval Process (ROPA) coordinated through the Agency of Education. Currently most all costs for running the program are incurred by the AOE; there is no longer the capacity within the AOE to cover those costs.
2. **Is there a need for this bill?** Teacher education programs need to be approved by an accrediting body in order to recommend their graduates for licensure. Without the ROPA program, teacher education programs will need to seek accreditation elsewhere. CAEP, the only national accrediting body, is the only logical choice; however, review and compliance costs associated with CAEP are in excess of 20 times of the fees proposed by this bill. Faced with having to pay those fees, it is likely that half of the teacher preparation programs in the state will close due to an inability to cover those costs.
3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** The fees from this bill will cover about 0.5 FTE. This will be sufficient to cover most of the work associated with the ROPA program. The difference is that the funding will come through collected fees, rather than from educator licensing. Most importantly, though, the fees will enable the program to continue to operate.
4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** The only other state authority directly affected by the bill would be Vermont State Colleges. While no one is excited about having to pay new fees, VSC, as well as the other colleges and universities in the state, have been enthusiastic supporters of the proposal, testifying on behalf of its adoption. They see the maintenance of ROPA with limited fees to be far superior to seeking accreditation through CAEP or being faced with closing their teacher education programs.
5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)

*Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to [Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov](mailto:Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov) & [Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)*

Again, these fees (averaging between \$1,500-\$3,500 annually, depending on the size of the institution) will be felt most directly by the 17 teacher education programs in the state. They are all in strong support of the proposed fees as they are a far better option than the \$50,000 in fees and compliance costs associated with CAEP.

## 6. Other Stakeholders:

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?** Outside of the Agency of Education and the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators, teacher education programs are the only other major stakeholder. The Standards board would like to maintain their oversight role of teacher education programs, so they are in support of the proposal. Teacher education programs see numerous advantages in program approval remaining in-state.

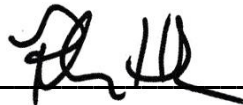
**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?** There is no known opposition to the proposed fees. Those who will be charged the fees are in favor of the proposal.

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** The Agency of Education is strongly in support of this proposal as it maintains a high quality and inexpensive program approval process in largely the same design as it has existed for the past 25 years. Only the funding of the program will change, with all of the teacher education programs in the state now paying annual fees and occasional additional fees associated with program review.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** There are none.

**9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?** No; however, failure to pass this bill will lead to the closure of the ROPA program and, in turn, some of the oversight authority of the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators, a gubernatorial appointed board.

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document:



Date: 5/11/16