

FROM: Melissa Goff
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DATE: March 13, 2025

RE: Response to member questions during the February 25th meeting of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

MEMBER QUESTION #1

If license fees are raised in 2027-29 to meet the fully anticipated needs through 3031-33, what changes would we see?

TSPC RESPONSE

To set an understanding, I first want to state that the agency is not proposing a fee increase in the budget bill. These tables are provided to respond to legislators' questions regarding the fee increases that would be needed to ensure long-term financial stability of the agency through 31-33. We were also asked what those fee increases would need to look like for the agency to cover the misconduct caseloads such as those we have based on anticipated future numbers.

Educator License Fees Raised in 27-29 to meet anticipated increased through 31-33			
Initial/Renewal License Fees - Currently \$182 (excludes background checks and portal fees)	Updated Fee	Cost Increase from 25-27	Percentage Increase
Keeping Staffing at CSL	\$ 311.22	\$ 129.22	71%
Increasing Investigative Staffing by 4.5 FTE	\$ 351.26	\$ 169.26	93%
Increasing Investigative Staffing by 9 FTE	\$ 364.00	\$ 182.00	100%

CSL funds 4 existing investigators, 2 legal liaisons, and 1 director for the unit. All of these expenses are covered by educator license fees. The cost increases we see both for our contracted services within the enterprise and the personnel and benefits within the unit creates a financial situation where leaving educator license fees stable will mean reducing FTE in AY29 to stay within our total revenue.

If we increase fees as listed above, at the end of AY33 we will carry the following months of cash carryover:

- Keeping staffing at CSL: 5.43 months of cash carryover
- Increasing by 4.5 FTE: 4.27 months of cash carryover
- Increasing by 9 FTE: 4.27 months of cash carryover

It is important to the agency to note that these increased fees would be paid every 1 to 2 years by emergency and restricted educators, respectively, often those with the least amount of educator preparation and those whom we are trying to support through an educator pathway to develop their expertise. These individuals often have fewer available financial resources than their peers who are on preliminary or professional cycles and would only need to pay the increased fees every 3 to 5 years.