



Testimony on HB 3030

House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

March 27, 2025

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for hearing HB 3030 today. This is a HECC sponsored bill.

At the onset, this bill was designed to do one simple thing: take a grant program operated by Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) for diverse educator administrator candidates and establish that program as a HECC program. Over the course of its operation, this program has provided over 170 educators with grants of up to \$12,000 each academic year to facilitate becoming licensed educator administrators.

This transfer is intended to facilitate the ease of administration for the state, institutions of higher education, and students, as HECC handles student financial aid awarding for well over 40,000 students each year. The bill also aligns this program with a very similar program for diverse educator candidates.

This is the concept you see in the base bill. While this appears like a new program and is required to go to Ways and Means, the Ways and Means referral will result in funding being decreased to TSPC and allocated to HECC in a manner that is budget neutral.

HECC has requested an amendment to the bill, to operate the program in a manner that is aligned with federal law and respects concerns that have been raised relative to equal protection and the use of eligibility requirements that can be based on race.

The amendment alters the scope of and eligibility for the program such that it will cease to be a program intended to serve diverse educator administrator candidates to educator administrator candidates who have experience with diverse populations. This clearly alters the intent of the program, but also results in a program that the Commission believes, in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), is free of constitutional concerns.

This analysis is dependent on program implementation and how HECC determines the eligibility of participants under this new statutory standard. We will determine how to screen eligibility through the public rulemaking process and in close discussion with DOJ to ensure that the eligibility process established by HECC cannot be construed as a pretext for awarding grants on the same basis as the original program, or on some basis that creates related concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.