



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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STATE AUDITOR
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January 23, 2020

Honorable Dave Belton
State Representative
612-G Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 741 (LC 49 0034S)

Dear Representative Belton:

The bill would require each qualifying public school to designate a master teacher to provide support and mentoring of other teachers. Each master teacher would receive a stipend of \$2,500 funded equally by state and local funds (\$1,250 each). Qualifying schools include all schools in rural counties with populations of 35,000 or less as of the most recent decennial census and turnaround eligible schools in other counties that are not among the lowest-performing schools deemed by the Chief Turnaround Officer to be in the greatest need of assistance.

The state cost would be \$713,750 for 571 eligible schools in 137 school districts, not including state schools. It should be noted that the bill would require the master teacher to discontinue classroom teaching duties, which may require each school to hire an additional teacher. The bill does not alter the Quality Based Education (QBE) formula that funds teaching positions; therefore, the use of existing school system funds would be necessary.

Sincerely,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget