



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 74

Committee: Education Policy

Sponsor: Senator Donnie Chesteen

Analyst: John Friedenreich

Date: 02/16/2026

Senate Bill 74 as passed the Senate would increase the obligations of the existing Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP), renamed the "Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA) Program" by this bill, by an undetermined amount dependent on the number of individuals that receive loan assistance through the program based on the acute educator shortages in the state, as provided by this bill, that otherwise would not have received assistance under current law. This bill would further increase the obligations of the program by \$500 per year for each educator that receives a supplemental award for employment in an acute educator shortage location by increasing that award amount from \$2,500 per year, under current law, to \$3,000 per year under this bill.

Additionally, this bill would cap the amount of administrative costs that may be used by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) for the program at 10% of the annual appropriation.

Finally, this bill would increase the administrative obligations of ACHE and the Alabama Commission on Evaluation of Services to develop an accountability and evaluation plan for the program, pursuant to the provisions of this bill. As of fiscal year 2026, AMSTEP has a cash balance of approximately \$3.5 million.