

SENATE BILL No. 771

January 25, 2018, Introduced by Senators ANANICH, GREGORY, BIEDA, HOOD, YOUNG, HOPGOOD, CONYERS, HERTEL, KNEZEK, WARREN and JOHNSON and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to establish a postgraduate educational scholarship program for certain teachers in at-risk schools who commit to continue teaching at those schools or within the school districts in which those schools are located; to prescribe conditions for repayment of the scholarships in certain circumstances; to provide for the administration of the scholarship program; and to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state officers, agencies, and departments.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "teacher recruitment and retention scholarship act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of education created

1 under sections 300 to 305 of the executive organization act of
2 1965, 1965 PA 380, MCL 16.400 to 16.405.

3 (b) "Eligible costs" means tuition and fees charged by an
4 eligible institution for an eligible program; related costs for
5 room, board, books, supplies, and transportation; and other related
6 costs determined by the department.

7 (c) "Eligible employment" means 1 of the following, as
8 applicable:

9 (i) At the time of application for a scholarship under this
10 act, employment as a full-time teacher in a public elementary or
11 secondary school in this state at which at least 50% of the pupils
12 enrolled meet the income eligibility criteria for the federal free
13 or reduced-price lunch program, as determined under the national
14 school lunch act, 42 USC 1751 to 1769j.

15 (ii) Throughout the period of the scholarship agreement under
16 section 4, continuous full-time employment as a teacher at the
17 school described in subparagraph (i) or at a public elementary or
18 secondary school located in the same school district as that
19 school.

20 (d) "Eligible institution" means a public or independent
21 nonprofit college or university that offers postgraduate degrees in
22 this state.

23 (e) "Eligible program" means a master's or higher degree
24 program operated in this state by an eligible institution and
25 approved by the state board of education as appropriate for
26 teaching in an elementary or secondary school.

27 (f) "Eligible student" means an individual who qualifies for a

1 scholarship under section 4.

2 (g) "Fund" means the teacher recruitment and retention
3 scholarship fund created under section 6.

4 Sec. 3. The teacher recruitment and retention scholarship
5 program is created, to be administered by the department. The
6 department shall do all of the following:

7 (a) Subject to section 4, award scholarships to eligible
8 students under this act pursuant to application procedures
9 established by the department.

10 (b) Develop the scholarship agreement described in section 4.

11 (c) Conduct periodic audits of scholarship recipients to
12 enforce the requirements of the scholarship agreement described in
13 section 4 and all other requirements set forth in this act or
14 promulgated by rule under subdivision (e).

15 (d) Collect repayment of scholarships if required under
16 section 4.

17 (e) Promulgate rules to implement this act pursuant to the
18 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to
19 24.328.

20 Sec. 4. The department shall award a scholarship under this
21 act to an individual only if the department determines that the
22 individual meets all of the following eligibility criteria:

23 (a) Has eligible employment.

24 (b) Is enrolled in or has been accepted into an eligible
25 program.

26 (c) If he or she has been attending the eligible program, is
27 maintaining satisfactory progress in that program according to the

standards of the eligible institution.

(d) If he or she has received scholarship money under this act, has not received that scholarship money for more than 4 academic years.

(e) Has entered into a written scholarship agreement with the department in which he or she commits to serve in eligible employment for at least 4 academic years immediately succeeding his or her award of a scholarship under this act and further agrees to all of the following:

(i) Upon the department's request, to provide the department with evidence of compliance with the scholarship agreement, including the 4-year eligible employment commitment, and any other requirements of this act and any rules promulgated by the department pursuant to this act.

(ii) If the individual fails or refuses to comply with the 4-year eligible employment commitment, to repay all or part of any scholarship money received under this act plus interest and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees, in compliance with rules promulgated by the department, including rules that provide for proportionate repayment if a scholarship recipient serves in eligible employment for some period less than 4 years and rules under which a repayment obligation may be reduced or forgiven due to death, disability, layoff, or other good cause.

Sec. 5. Subject to appropriation, an eligible student awarded a scholarship under section 4 may receive not more than \$1,000.00 per semester to be used for eligible costs incurred in connection with attending an eligible program.

1 Sec. 6. (1) The teacher recruitment and retention scholarship
2 fund is created within the state treasury.

3 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from
4 any source for deposit into the fund, including, but not limited
5 to, amounts repaid to the department on scholarships awarded under
6 this act. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the
7 fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and
8 earnings from fund investments.

9 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall
10 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

11 (4) The department of treasury shall be the administrator of
12 the fund for auditing purposes.

13 (5) The department of treasury shall expend money from the
14 fund, upon appropriation, only to provide money to the department
15 for scholarships awarded under this act.