

House File 759

Bill Text

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1 1 Section 1. COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION. There is
1 2 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the college
1 3 student aid commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
1 4 1999, and ending June 30, 2000, the following amount, or so
1 5 much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
1 6 designated:
1 7 For the teacher shortage forgivable loan program
1 8 established in section 261.111:
1 9 \$ 250,000
1 10 Sec. 2. Section [256.9](#), Code 1999, is amended by adding the
1 11 following new subsection:
1 12 NEW SUBSECTION. 49. Conduct an ongoing study, in
1 13 consultation with the board of educational examiners, to
1 14 enable the director to project future teacher and endorsement
1 15 shortage areas.
1 16 Sec. 3. Section [261.25](#), subsection 4, Code 1999, is
1 17 amended by striking the subsection.
1 18 Sec. 4. Section [261.111](#), Code 1999, is amended by striking
1 19 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
1 20 261.111 TEACHER SHORTAGE FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM.
1 21 1. A teacher shortage forgivable loan program is
1 22 established to be administered by the college student aid
1 23 commission. An individual is eligible for the forgivable loan
1 24 program if the individual is a resident of this state who is
1 25 enrolled as a sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student
1 26 in an approved practitioner preparation program in a
1 27 designated area in which teacher shortages are anticipated, at
1 28 an institution of higher learning under the control of the
1 29 state board of regents or an accredited private institution as
1 30 defined in section 261.9.
1 31 2. The director of the department of education shall
1 32 annually designate the areas in which teacher shortages are
1 33 anticipated. The director shall periodically conduct a survey
1 34 of school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and
1 35 approved practitioner preparation programs to determine
2 1 current shortage areas and predict future shortage areas.
2 2 3. Each applicant shall, in accordance with the rules of
2 3 the commission, do the following:
2 4 a. Complete and file an application for a teacher shortage
2 5 forgivable loan. The individual shall be responsible for the
2 6 prompt submission of any information required by the
2 7 commission.
2 8 b. File a new application and submit information as
2 9 required by the commission annually on the basis of which the
2 10 applicant's eligibility for the renewed forgivable loan will
2 11 be evaluated and determined.
2 12 4. Forgivable loans to eligible students shall not become
2 13 due until after the student graduates or leaves school. The
2 14 individual's total loan amount, including principal and
2 15 interest, shall be reduced by twenty percent for each year in
2 16 which the individual remains an Iowa resident and is employed
2 17 in Iowa by a school district or an accredited nonpublic school
2 18 as a practitioner in the teacher shortage area for which the
2 19 loan was approved. If the commission determines that the
2 20 person does not meet the criteria for forgiveness of the
2 21 principal and interest payments, the commission shall

2 22 establish a plan for repayment of the principal and interest
2 23 over a ten-year period. If a person required to make the
2 24 repayment does not make the required payments, the commission
2 25 shall provide for payment collection.

2 26 5. The amount of a teacher shortage forgivable loan shall
2 27 not exceed three thousand dollars annually, or the amount of
2 28 the student's established financial need, whichever is less.

2 29 6. The commission shall prescribe by rule the interest
2 30 rate for the forgivable loan.

2 31 7. A teacher shortage forgivable loan repayment fund is
2 32 created for deposit of payments made by forgivable loan
2 33 recipients who do not fulfill the conditions of the forgivable
2 34 loan program and any other moneys appropriated to or received
2 35 by the commission for deposit in the fund. Notwithstanding
3 1 section 8.33, moneys deposited in the fund shall not revert to
3 2 the general fund of the state at the end of any fiscal year
3 3 but shall remain in the forgivable loan repayment fund and be
3 4 continuously available to make additional loans under the
3 5 program. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2,
3 6 interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be
3 7 credited to the fund.

3 8 8. For purposes of this section, unless the context
3 9 otherwise requires, "teacher" means the same as defined in
3 10 section 272.1.

3 11 Sec. 5. Section [272.2](#), Code 1999, is amended by adding the
3 12 following new subsection:

3 13 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. Adopt rules for the alternative
3 14 licensure of content area specialists in subject or service
3 15 shortage areas.

3 16 Sec. 6. Section [272.3](#), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1999,
3 17 is amended to read as follows:

3 18 The board of educational examiners consists of

~~eleven~~

3 19 thirteen members.

~~Two~~

- Four must be members of the general
3 20 public and the remaining nine must be licensed practitioners.
3 21

~~One of the public~~

- Public members shall

~~also be~~

- include the
3 22 director of the department of education, or the director's
3 23 designee

~~The other public member shall be~~

- a person who does
3 24 not hold a practitioner's license, but has a demonstrated
3 25 interest in education, a person from a list of nominees
3 26 submitted to the governor by the state board of regents, and a
3 27 person from a list of nominees submitted to the governor by
3 28 the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities.

3 29 The nine practitioners shall be selected from the following
3 30 areas and specialties of the teaching profession:

3 31 Sec. 7. Section [272.3](#), unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1999,
3 32 is amended to read as follows:

3 33 A majority of the licensed practitioner members shall be
3 34 nonadministrative practitioners. Four of the members shall be
3 35 administrators. Membership of the board shall comply with the

4 1 requirements of sections 69.16 and 69.16A. A quorum of the
4 2 board shall consist of

~~—six~~

— seven members. The director of the
4 3 department of education shall serve as the chairperson of the
4 4 board. Members, except for the director of the department of
4 5 education, shall be appointed by the governor and the
4 6 appointments are subject to confirmation by the senate.

4 7 Sec. 8. Section [272.4](#), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1999,
4 8 is amended to read as follows:

4 9 Members, except for the director of the department of
4 10 education, shall be appointed to serve staggered terms of four
4 11 years. A member shall not serve more than two consecutive
4 12 terms, except for the director of the department of education,
4 13 who shall serve until the director's term of office expires.
4 14 A member of the board, except for the

~~—two~~

— four public members,
4 15 shall hold a valid practitioner's license during the member's
4 16 term of office. A vacancy exists when any of the following
4 17 occur:

4 18 Sec. 9. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDY. The director of
4 19 the department of education shall appoint a task force to
4 20 study the issues and feasibility of establishing a volunteer
4 21 program to encourage retired teachers and administrators to
4 22 return to education as mentors and aides in school districts.
4 23 The chairperson of the task force shall be the director of the
4 24 department of education, or the director's designee. The task
4 25 force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
4 26 chairpersons and the ranking members of the senate and house
4 27 standing committees on education by January 15, 2000.

4 28 Sec. 10. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds that the
4 29 state suffers severe teacher shortages in certain fields, and
4 30 is concerned that within five years, the nation will face an
4 31 overall shortage of teachers. The general assembly therefore
4 32 encourages school districts to ensure their future ability to
4 33 hire qualified professional practitioners by establishing
4 34 future teacher associations and by supporting teachers and
4 35 secondary school students who participate in these
5 1 associations.

5 2 Sec. 11. STUDY REQUEST. The general assembly hereby
5 3 requests the Iowa association of colleges of teacher education
5 4 to study and report its findings to the standing senate
5 5 committee on education and house committee on education by
5 6 January 15, 2000, on the following: field experiences,
5 7 including the current number of hours required by each of the
5 8 approved practitioner programs within the state, whether the
5 9 institutions expect to increase or decrease the required
5 10 hours, and the characteristics of the experiences provided;
5 11 the method of collaboration between approved practitioner
5 12 preparation programs and local school districts, and between
5 13 approved practitioner preparation programs and other content
5 14 area-related colleges within their institutions; and faculty
5 15 interaction, including the current number of contact hours
5 16 with school districts and beginning teachers that each of the
5 17 approved practitioner programs within the state requires of
5 18 its faculty members, whether the institutions expect to
5 19 increase or decrease the required hours, and the
5 20 characteristics of the professional contact.

5 21 Sec. 12. REMAINING INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY FORGIVABLE LOAN
5 22 PROGRAM BALANCE. Notwithstanding section 8.33 or section
5 23 261.25, subsection 4, Code 1999, or any other provision to the
5 24 contrary, unencumbered or unobligated funds remaining on June
5 25 30, 1999, for purposes of the industrial technology forgivable
5 26 loan program established in section 261.111, shall be

5 27 available to the college student aid commission for
5 28 expenditure for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and
5 29 for succeeding fiscal years for the purposes of the teacher
5 30 shortage forgivable loan program established in section
5 31 261.111.

5 32 Sec. 13. Section [261.112](#), Code 1999, is repealed.

5 33 Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section and section 12 of
5 34 this Act, relating to the remaining industrial technology
5 35 forgivable loan program balance, being deemed of immediate
6 1 importance, take effect upon enactment.

6 2 EXPLANATION

6 3 This bill related to teacher preparation and recruitment
6 4 and includes the following:

6 5 Code section 256.9, subsection 49: Requires the director
6 6 of the department of education to conduct an ongoing study, in
6 7 consultation with the board of educational examiners, to
6 8 enable the director to project future teacher and endorsement
6 9 shortage areas.

6 10 Code sections 261.111 and 261.112 and section 261.25,
6 11 subsection 4: Strike and repeal language creating the
6 12 industrial technology forgivable loan program and fund and
6 13 establish a teacher shortage forgivable loan program to be
6 14 administered by the college student aid commission. The
6 15 program will be available to Iowa residents who are enrolled
6 16 in approved practitioner preparation programs in a designated
6 17 area in which teacher shortages are anticipated, at a regents
6 18 university or an accredited private institution.

6 19 The bill requires the director of the department of
6 20 education to annually designate the areas in which teacher
6 21 shortages are anticipated.

6 22 Forgivable loans to eligible students shall not become due
6 23 until after the student graduates or leaves school. The
6 24 individual's total loan amount, including principal and
6 25 interest, shall be reduced by 20 percent for each year in
6 26 which the individual remains an Iowa resident and is employed
6 27 by a school district or an accredited nonpublic school as a
6 28 teacher in the teacher shortage area for which the loan was
6 29 approved. If the commission determines that the person does
6 30 not meet the criteria for forgiveness of the principal and
6 31 interest payments, the commission shall establish a plan for
6 32 repayment of the principal and interest over a 10-year period.
6 33 If a person required to make the repayment does not make the
6 34 required payments, the commission shall provide for payment
6 35 collection.

7 1 The amount of a teacher shortage area forgivable loan shall
7 2 not exceed \$3,000 annually, or the amount of the student's
7 3 established financial need, whichever is less. The interest
7 4 rate for the forgivable loan shall be determined by the
7 5 commission by rule.

7 6 A teacher shortage forgivable loan repayment fund is
7 7 created for deposit of payments made by forgivable loan
7 8 recipients who do not fulfill the conditions of the forgivable
7 9 loan program. Moneys deposited in the forgivable loan
7 10 repayment fund shall not revert to the general fund of the
7 11 state at the end of any fiscal year.

7 12 The bill includes an appropriation of \$250,000 from the
7 13 general fund of the state for FY 1999-2000 for the forgivable
7 14 loan program, and requires that money remaining in the
7 15 industrial technology forgivable loan fund from FY 1998-1999,
7 16 carries over for the teacher shortage forgivable loan program
7 17 for FY 1999-2000 and for succeeding fiscal years. This
7 18 provision takes effect upon enactment. The bill strikes a
7 19 standing appropriation for the industrial technology
7 20 forgivable loan program.

7 21 Code section 272.2, subsection 16: Directs the board of
7 22 educational examiners to adopt rules for the alternative
7 23 licensure of content area specialists in subject or service

7 24 shortage areas.

7 25 Code sections 272.3, unnumbered paragraphs 1 and 2, and
7 26 section 272.4, unnumbered paragraph 1: Increase from 11 to 13
7 27 the membership of the board of educational examiners. One new
7 28 member will be a person from a list of nominees submitted to
7 29 the governor by the state board of regents, and the other will
7 30 be a person from a list of nominees submitted to the governor
7 31 by the Iowa association of independent colleges and
7 32 universities.

7 33 The bill also includes session law requiring or requesting,
7 34 as appropriate, the following:

7 35 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TASK FORCE. The director of the
8 1 department of education to appoint a task force to study the
8 2 issues and feasibility of establishing a volunteer program to
8 3 encourage retired teachers and administrators to return to
8 4 education as mentors and aides in school districts. The task
8 5 force is to report its findings and recommendations to the
8 6 chairpersons and the ranking members of the senate and house
8 7 standing committees on education by January 15, 2000.

8 8 FINDINGS. The bill includes the findings of the general
8 9 assembly and its concerns relating to current severe teacher
8 10 shortages in certain fields and a future overall shortage of
8 11 teachers. The general assembly encourages school districts to
8 12 ensure their future ability to hire qualified professional
8 13 practitioners by establishing future teacher associations and
8 14 by supporting teachers and secondary school students who
8 15 participate in these associations.

8 16 STUDY REQUEST. The Iowa association of colleges of teacher
8 17 education is requested to study and report its findings to the
8 18 standing senate committee on education and house committee on
8 19 education by January 15, 2000, on the following: field
8 20 experiences; the method of collaboration between approved
8 21 practitioner preparation programs and local school districts,
8 22 and between approved practitioner preparation programs and
8 23 other content area-related colleges within their institutions;
8 24 and faculty interaction.

8 25 LSB 2091HZ 78

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