

House Study Bill 519 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON HITE)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the eligibility for grants under the teach
2 Iowa scholar program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 261.110, subsection 3, Code 2022, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Criteria for eligibility shall be established by the
4 commission and shall include but are not limited to the
5 following:

6 a. The applicant was in the top ~~twenty-five~~ fifty percent
7 academically of students exiting a teacher preparation program
8 approved by the state board of education pursuant to section
9 256.7, subsection 3, or a similar teacher preparation program
10 in another state, or had earned other comparable academic
11 credentials.

12 b. The applicant is preparing to teach in ~~fields including~~
13 ~~but not limited to science, technology, engineering, or~~
14 ~~mathematics; English as a second language or special education~~
15 ~~instruction; or is preparing to teach in a hard-to-staff~~
16 ~~subject as identified by the department. The department shall~~
17 ~~take into account the varying regional needs in the state for~~
18 ~~teachers in these subject areas when applying the criterion~~
19 ~~of this paragraph. The department shall annually identify~~
20 ~~and designate hard-to-staff subjects for the purpose of this~~
21 ~~paragraph. The eligibility of an applicant who receives a~~
22 ~~teach Iowa scholar grant and who is preparing to teach in a~~
23 ~~hard-to-staff subject as identified by the department shall~~
24 ~~not be affected in subsequent years if the department does not~~
25 ~~continue to identify that subject as a hard-to-staff subject~~
26 any of the following located in this state:

- 27 (1) A school district.
- 28 (2) A charter school.
- 29 (3) An area education agency.
- 30 (4) An accredited nonpublic school.

31 c. The applicant met all of the eligibility requirements
32 of this section on or after January 1, 2013. A person who met
33 the program eligibility requirements of this section prior to
34 January 1, 2013, is ineligible for this program.

35 d. On or after July 1, 2022, the total value of grants

1 awarded under this section each year to applicants who are
2 preparing to teach in a school district shall be as follows:

3 (1) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing
4 to teach in a school district with less than or equal to
5 one thousand students. However, if the amount requested by
6 applicants pursuant to subparagraph (2) is less than the amount
7 reserved for applicants under subparagraph (2), the commission
8 may award the difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

9 (2) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing
10 to teach in a school district with greater than one thousand
11 students. However, if the amount requested by applicants
12 pursuant to subparagraph (1) is less than the amount reserved
13 for applicants under subparagraph (1), the commission may award
14 the difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill relates to the eligibility for grants under the
19 teach Iowa scholar program.

20 The teach Iowa scholar program, administered by the
21 college student aid commission, provides grants to certain
22 high-caliber, full-time teachers in Iowa in amounts not to
23 exceed \$4,000 annually or \$20,000 over five years. Under
24 current law, the eligibility criteria established by the
25 commission for grants under the program include that the
26 applicant was in the top 25 percent academically of students
27 exiting a teacher preparation program and the applicant is
28 preparing to teach in certain specified fields. The bill
29 modifies these provisions to provide that the applicant was in
30 the top 50 percent academically of students exiting a teacher
31 preparation program and the applicant is preparing to teach at
32 a school district, charter school, area education agency, or
33 accredited nonpublic school located in the state.

34 The bill provides that on or after July 1, 2022, the total
35 value of grants awarded under the program to applicants

1 who are preparing to teach in a school district shall be
2 equally divided between applicants preparing to teach in a
3 school district with less than or equal to 1,000 students and
4 applicants preparing to teach in a school district with greater
5 than 1,000 students. The bill authorizes the commission to
6 award different amounts to each group of applicants if the
7 amount requested by applicants of either group is less than the
8 amount reserved for that group.