

House File 2644 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2644

BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2493)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a program and fund for court reporter

2 equipment, and making appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 15.485 Court reporter equipment
2 incentive program.

3 1. The authority shall establish and administer a court
4 reporter equipment incentive program. The court reporter
5 equipment incentive program shall consist of a student grant
6 program and a graduate forgivable loan program. Financial
7 assistance under the programs shall be provided from the court
8 reporter equipment incentive fund created in section 15.486.

9 2. A person enrolled in a court reporter course at a school
10 in Iowa that demonstrates financial need, as determined by the
11 authority by rule, is eligible to apply for a grant under the
12 student grant program to be used for the purchase of court
13 reporter equipment and software for the court reporter training
14 at the school.

15 3. *a.* A person is eligible to apply for a loan under the
16 graduate forgivable loan program if the person meets all of the
17 following requirements:

18 (1) The person is a newly licensed court reporter within one
19 year of graduation from a court reporter training program.

20 (2) The person is a resident of Iowa.

21 (3) The person agrees to work as a court reporter for five
22 years after the date of the loan.

23 *b.* After five years from the date of the loan, if eligible
24 under paragraph "*a*", the loan is forgiven. If the loan is
25 not forgiven, the authority shall establish a loan repayment
26 schedule for repayment of the loan within five years. A
27 loan not forgiven and defaulted on shall be referred to the
28 department of revenue for collections.

29 *c.* A loan granted under this subsection shall be used to
30 purchase court reporter equipment and software.

31 4. Applicants to the court reporter equipment incentive
32 program who are doing court-related work shall receive priority
33 over applicants who are not.

34 5. Available moneys shall be divided equally among all
35 applicants during a fiscal year.

1 6. The authority shall adopt rules to administer this
2 section.

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15.486 Court reporter equipment
4 incentive fund.

5 1. A court reporter equipment incentive fund is created
6 in the state treasury under the control of the authority and
7 shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund by the general
8 assembly and any other moneys available to and obtained or
9 accepted by the authority for placement in the fund.

10 2. The following accounts are created within the court
11 reporter equipment incentive fund:

12 a. A student grant account, which is appropriated to the
13 authority to support the student grant program created in
14 section 15.485.

15 b. A graduate forgivable loan account, which is appropriated
16 to the authority to support the graduate forgivable loan
17 program created in section 15.485.

18 3. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
19 earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.
20 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund that remain
21 unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall
22 not revert but shall remain available for expenditure for the
23 purposes designated. For moneys deposited in the fund but not
24 to a particular account, the authority shall split available
25 moneys among the accounts based on need and to maximize the
26 impact of available moneys, as determined by the authority.

27 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION — COURT REPORTER EQUIPMENT

28 PROGRAM. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
29 state to the economic development authority for the fiscal year
30 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, the following
31 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the
32 purposes designated:

33 For deposit in the court reporter equipment incentive fund
34 created in section 15.486, as enacted by this Act:

35 \$ 80,000

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EXPLANATION

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

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4 This bill creates a court reporter equipment incentive
5 program and associated fund under the control of the Iowa
6 economic development authority. The bill provides that the
7 court reporter equipment incentive program is comprised of two
8 programs, the student grant program and the graduate forgivable
9 loan program. A person is eligible to apply for a grant from
10 the student grant program to purchase court reporter equipment
11 and software if the person is enrolled in a court reporter
12 course at a school in Iowa and demonstrates financial need.
13 A person is eligible to apply for a loan under the graduate
14 forgivable loan program to purchase court reporter equipment
15 and software if the person is newly licensed within one year
16 of graduation from a court reporter program, is a resident of
17 Iowa, and agrees to work as a court reporter for five years
18 after the date of the loan. The bill provides repayment
19 requirements for the graduate forgivable loan program. The
20 bill provides that applicants to the court reporter equipment
21 incentive program who are doing court-related work shall
22 receive priority over applicants who are not.

23 The bill appropriates \$80,000 from the general fund for
24 FY 2024-2025 to the court reporter equipment incentive fund.