

Senate Study Bill 1049 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ROZENBOOM)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including eligibility for grants
2 under the teach Iowa scholar program, licenses issued by the
3 board of educational examiners, and the use of revenues from
4 the district management levy, and including applicability
5 provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, Code 2023, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *m.* If a higher education institution
4 providing practitioner preparation offers a program that is
5 designed to assist students in attaining a teacher intern
6 license from the board of educational examiners, the program
7 shall require participants to satisfy all of the following
8 requirements before completing the program:

9 (1) A participant in the program must have graduated from
10 an accredited or state-approved college or university and must
11 meet the requirements for an endorsement area approved by the
12 board of educational examiners for a teacher intern license.

13 (2) A participant in the program must have at least three
14 years of post-baccalaureate work experience.

15 (3) A participant in the program must submit with the
16 application to the program a copy of an offer of employment
17 from a school.

18 (4) A participant in the program must have completed the
19 required pedagogy training.

20 (5) A participant in the program must work under the
21 supervision of a teacher leader assigned by the school district
22 or accredited nonpublic school, including during co-teaching
23 and planning time.

24 (6) A participant in the program must complete at least
25 fifteen additional hours of coursework.

26 Sec. 2. Section 261.110, subsection 3, paragraphs a and b,
27 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

28 *a.* The applicant was in the top ~~twenty-five~~ thirty percent
29 academically of students exiting a teacher preparation program
30 approved by the state board of education pursuant to section
31 256.7, subsection 3, or a similar teacher preparation program
32 in another state, or had earned other comparable academic
33 credentials.

34 *b.* The applicant is preparing to ~~teach in fields including~~
35 ~~but not limited to science, technology, engineering, or~~

~~1 mathematics; English as a second language or special education
2 instruction; or is preparing to teach in a hard-to-staff
3 subject as identified by the department. The department shall
4 take into account the varying regional needs in the state for
5 teachers in these subject areas when applying the criterion
6 of this paragraph. The department shall annually identify
7 and designate hard-to-staff subjects for the purpose of this
8 paragraph. The eligibility of an applicant who receives a
9 teach Iowa scholar grant and who is preparing to teach in a
10 hard-to-staff subject as identified by the department shall
11 not be affected in subsequent years if the department does not
12 continue to identify that subject as a hard-to-staff subject
13 become a teacher who provides classroom instruction.~~

14 Sec. 3. Section 261.110, subsection 3, Code 2023, is amended
15 by adding the following new paragraph:

16 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* The total value of grants awarded under
17 this section each year to applicants who are preparing to
18 teach in a school district, charter school, or an accredited
19 nonpublic school shall be as follows:

20 (1) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing
21 to teach in a school district with less than or equal to one
22 thousand two hundred students, a charter school with less than
23 or equal to one thousand two hundred students, or an accredited
24 nonpublic school with less than or equal to one thousand
25 two hundred students. However, if the amount requested by
26 applicants pursuant to subparagraph (2) is less than the amount
27 reserved for applicants under subparagraph (2), the commission
28 may award the difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

29 (2) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing
30 to teach in a school district with greater than one thousand
31 two hundred students, a charter school with greater than one
32 thousand two hundred students, or an accredited nonpublic
33 school with greater than one thousand two hundred students.
34 However, if the amount requested by applicants pursuant
35 to subparagraph (1) is less than the amount reserved for

1 applicants under subparagraph (1), the commission may award the
2 difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

3 Sec. 4. Section 272.2, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended
4 by adding the following new paragraph:

5 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection
6 establishing criteria for applicants for licenses who have
7 completed an accredited or state-approved teacher preparation
8 program and who are applying for the applicant's first Iowa
9 teaching license shall not require the applicant to be an Iowa
10 resident if the applicant provides the board with a copy of an
11 offer of employment as a teacher from a school located in this
12 state.

13 Sec. 5. Section 272.2, subsection 13, Code 2023, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 13. Adopt rules to provide for nontraditional preparation
16 options for licensing persons who hold a bachelor's degree
17 or higher from an accredited or state-approved college or
18 university, who do not meet other requirements for licensure.
19 The rules shall, at a minimum, require the board to do all of
20 the following:

21 *a.* Issue a teacher intern license for instruction in grades
22 six through twelve to an applicant who has enrolled in a
23 program established pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 1,
24 paragraph "m".

25 *b.* Allow a licensee who has attained a teacher intern
26 license pursuant to paragraph "a" to apply for an initial
27 teaching license if the school that employed the licensee
28 during the licensee's completion of the program established
29 pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph "m", and
30 the higher education institution that operated the program,
31 recommend that the licensee be allowed to apply for an initial
32 teaching license.

33 Sec. 6. Section 272.2, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
34 following new subsection:

35 NEW SUBSECTION. 26. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter

1 17A that allow an individual seeking a career and technical
2 secondary authorization to apply, and if eligible, be issued
3 the secondary authorization prior to accepting an offer of
4 employment with a school.

5 Sec. 7. Section 279.46, Code 2023, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **279.46 Retirement incentives and teacher recruitment**
8 **incentives — tax.**

9 1. The board of directors of a school district may adopt
10 a program for payment of a monetary bonus, continuation of
11 health or medical insurance coverage, or other incentives
12 for encouraging its employees to retire before the normal
13 retirement date as defined in [chapter 97B](#). The program is
14 available only to employees who notify the board of directors
15 prior to April 1 of the fiscal year that they intend to retire
16 not later than the start of the next following school calendar.
17 The age at which employees shall be designated eligible for
18 the program shall be at the discretion of the board. An
19 employee retiring under [this section subsection](#) may apply for
20 a retirement allowance under [chapter 97B](#) or [chapter 294](#). The
21 board may include in the district management levy an amount to
22 pay the total estimated accumulated cost to the school district
23 of the health or medical insurance coverage, bonus, or other
24 incentives for employees fifty-five years of age or older who
25 retire under [this section subsection](#).

26 2. a. The board of directors of a school district
27 may adopt a program for teacher recruitment incentives to
28 recruit new teachers. If the board does adopt a program
29 for teacher recruitment incentives, the board shall adopt a
30 policy to implement the program. Under the program, the board
31 of directors of a school district shall not do any of the
32 following:

33 (1) Pay a teacher a teacher recruitment incentive that
34 annually exceeds ten percent of the amount of the salary for
35 an initial teacher established pursuant to section 284.15,

1 subsection 2, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1).

2 (2) Pay a teacher a teacher recruitment incentive in more
3 than five school budget years.

4 b. The board may include in the district management levy
5 an amount to pay the total estimated accumulated cost to the
6 school district of the teacher recruitment incentives adopted
7 under this subsection.

8 3. The board may adopt either the program for early
9 retirement benefits provided in subsection 1 or the program for
10 teacher recruitment incentives provided in subsection 2, but
11 shall not adopt both concurrently.

12 4. The board of directors of a school district shall
13 discuss the adoption of the program for early retirement
14 benefits provided in subsection 1 or the program for teacher
15 recruitment incentives provided in subsection 2, if applicable,
16 at a regular or special meeting prior to adopting the program.
17 The board of directors of the school district shall provide
18 sufficient time to receive public comment on the program. The
19 board shall allow each interested member of the public to speak
20 at the meeting regarding the program, but may impose a time
21 limit on the amount of time a member of the public is allowed
22 to speak if the time limit is the same for each speaker and
23 necessary due to the amount of people wishing to speak.

24 Sec. 8. Section 298.4, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code 2023,
25 is amended to read as follows:

26 e. To pay the cost of early retirement benefits to employees
27 under [section 279.46](#), subsection 1, or teacher recruitment
28 incentives under [section 279.46](#), subsection 2. A board of
29 directors of a school district shall not expend the district
30 management levy on the costs of both programs in the same
31 fiscal year.

32 Sec. 9. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to grants
33 awarded by the college student aid commission on or after July
34 1, 2023, to initial applicants under the teach Iowa scholar
35 program established pursuant to section 261.110:

1 The sections of this Act amending section 261.110.
2 Sec. 10. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to school
3 budget years beginning July 1, 2024:
4 1. The section of this Act amending section 279.46.
5 2. The section of this Act amending section 298.4.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill relates to education, including eligibility for
10 grants under the teach Iowa scholar program, licenses issued
11 by the board of educational examiners (BOEE), and the use of
12 revenues from the district management levy.

13 The bill provides that if a higher education institution
14 providing practitioner preparation offers a program that is
15 designed to assist students in attaining a teacher intern
16 license from the BOEE, the program shall require participants
17 to satisfy certain specified requirements.

18 The teach Iowa scholar program, administered by the
19 college student aid commission, provides grants to certain
20 high-caliber, full-time teachers in Iowa in amounts not to
21 exceed \$4,000 annually or \$20,000 over five years. Current
22 law requires applicants under the program to be in the top 25
23 percent academically of students exiting a teacher preparation
24 program to be eligible for grants under the program. The bill
25 changes this requirement to the top 30 percent academically of
26 students exiting a teacher preparation program. Current law
27 also requires applicants to be preparing to teach in a specific
28 field or subject. The bill eliminates this requirement and
29 replaces it with a requirement that the applicant be preparing
30 to become a teacher who provides classroom instruction. The
31 bill provides that the total value of grants awarded under
32 the program to applicants who are preparing to teach in a
33 school district, charter school, or an accredited nonpublic
34 school shall be equally divided between applicants preparing to
35 teach in a school district, charter school, or an accredited

1 nonpublic school with less than or equal to 1,200 students and
2 applicants preparing to teach in a school district, charter
3 school, or accredited nonpublic school with greater than
4 1,200 students. The bill authorizes the commission to award
5 different amounts to each group of applicants if the amount
6 requested by applicants of either group is less than the amount
7 reserved for that group. The bill establishes that this
8 provision applies to grants awarded by the commission on or
9 after July 1, 2023, to initial applicants under the program.

10 Current law authorizes the BOEE to issue a regional exchange
11 teaching license to an applicant who has completed a teacher
12 preparation program outside of the state and who is applying
13 for the applicant's first Iowa teaching license if, among
14 other requirements, the applicant is a resident of the state.
15 The bill removes the requirement that such an applicant be a
16 resident of this state if the applicant provides the BOEE with
17 a copy of an offer of employment as a teacher from a school
18 located in this state.

19 Current law requires the BOEE to adopt rules to provide
20 for nontraditional preparation options for licensing persons
21 who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college
22 or university and who do not meet other requirements for
23 licensure. The bill provides that the rules shall require
24 the BOEE to issue a teacher intern license to an applicant
25 who has completed a program offered by a higher education
26 institution providing practitioner preparation that is designed
27 to assist students in attaining a teacher intern license. The
28 bill requires the BOEE to allow a licensee who has attained
29 a teacher intern license under such a program to apply for
30 an initial teaching license if the school that employed
31 the licensee during the program and the higher education
32 institution recommend that the licensee be allowed to apply.

33 The bill requires the BOEE to adopt rules that allow
34 an individual seeking a career and technical secondary
35 authorization to apply, and if eligible, be issued the

1 secondary authorization prior to accepting an offer of
2 employment with a school.

3 Currently, Code section 279.46 authorizes the board of
4 directors of a school district to adopt a program for early
5 retirement benefits to encourage its employees to retire before
6 the normal retirement date. The bill modifies Code section
7 279.46 to also authorize the board of directors to adopt a
8 program for teacher recruitment incentives to recruit new
9 teachers. The bill requires the board of directors to discuss
10 the adoption of the program for early retirement benefits or
11 the program for teacher recruitment incentives, if applicable,
12 at a regular or special meeting prior to adopting the program
13 and allow for public comment. The bill prohibits the board
14 of directors from paying a teacher recruitment incentive that
15 annually exceeds 10 percent of the amount of the salary for
16 an initial teacher established under Code section 284.15.
17 Additionally, the bill prohibits the board of directors from
18 paying a teacher recruitment incentive in more than five
19 school budget years. The bill also prohibits the board of
20 directors from adopting the program for early retirement
21 benefits concurrently with the program for teacher recruitment
22 incentives. In addition, the bill prohibits the board of
23 directors from adopting either the program for early retirement
24 benefits or the program for teacher recruitment incentives
25 within five years after adopting the other program. The bill
26 establishes that these provisions apply to school budget years
27 beginning July 1, 2024.

28 The bill authorizes the board of directors to expend the
29 district management levy to pay the costs of either the program
30 for early retirement benefits or the program for teacher
31 recruitment incentives. The bill prohibits the board of
32 directors from expending the district management levy on the
33 costs of both programs in the same fiscal year. The bill
34 establishes that these provisions apply to school budget years
35 beginning July 1, 2024.