SENATE FILE 2377
BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2202)
(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3067)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 29, 2022)
_____ and [= New Language by the Senate

A BILL FOR

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

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

Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, Code 2022, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 2. Section 261.110, subsection 3, paragraphs a and b, Code 2022, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

Sec. 3. Section 261.110, subsection 3, Code 2022, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. Section 272.2, subsection 1, Code 2022, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

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

Sec. 5. Section 272.2, subsection 13, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

Sec. 6. Section 272.2, Code 2022, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 27. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter

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

Sec. 7. Section 279.46, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

279.46 Retirement incentives and teacher recruitment incentives — tax.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. The board shall adopt either the program for early retirement benefits provided in subsection 1 or the program for teacher recruitment incentives provided in subsection 2, but shall not adopt both concurrently. After adopting a program, the board may change programs, but only after at least five years.

4. The board of directors of a school district shall discuss the adoption of the program for early retirement benefits provided in subsection 1 or the program for teacher recruitment incentives provided in subsection 2, as applicable, at a regular or special meeting prior to adopting the program. The board of directors of the school district shall provide sufficient time to receive public comment on the program. The board shall allow each interested member of the public to speak at the meeting regarding the program, but may impose a time limit on the amount of time a member of the public is allowed to speak if the time limit is the same for each speaker and necessary due to the amount of people wishing to speak. The board of directors of a school district shall not adopt the program for early retirement benefits provided in subsection 1 concurrently with the program for teacher recruitment incentives provided in subsection 2.

Sec. 8. Section 298.4, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

e. To pay the cost of early retirement benefits to employees under section 279.46, subsection 1, or teacher recruitment incentives under section 279.46, subsection 2. A board of directors of a school district shall not expend the district

management levy on the costs of both programs in the same fiscal year.

Sec. 9. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to grants awarded by the college student aid commission on or after July 1, 2022, to initial applicants under the teach Iowa scholar program established pursuant to section 261.110:

The sections of this Act amending section 261.110.

Sec. 10. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to school budget years beginning July 1, 2023:

1. The section of this Act amending section 279.46.

2. The section of this Act amending section 298.4.