

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2609

4
5 By: Representative Bond
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR
10 STUDENTS ENTERING THE FIELD OF TEACHING; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13
14 AN ACT TO CREATE A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
15 FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE FIELD OF
16 TEACHING.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. (a) The purpose of the Arkansas Teacher Recruitment
22 Scholarship Program is to attract to the teaching profession persons who have
23 expressed interest in teaching and to support the certification of those
24 persons as classroom teachers.

25 (b) To the extent funds are appropriated and available, a scholarship
26 under the Arkansas Teacher Recruitment Scholarship Program is available for a
27 person who is enrolled as a junior or senior in a baccalaureate degree
28 program, if:

29 (1) The degree program is in a teaching field certified by the
30 Director of the Department of Education as experiencing a critical shortage
31 of teachers in this state in the year in which the person begins the degree
32 program; or

33 (2) The person agrees to teach in a public school in this state
34 in a community, which is not required to be specifically designated at the
35 time the person receives the grant, designated by the Department of Education
36 as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in any year in which the



1 person receives a grant under this section or in any subsequent year in which
2 the person fulfills the teaching obligation.

3 (c) To receive a scholarship under the Arkansas Teacher Recruitment
4 Scholarship Program, a person must agree to teach full-time for five (5)
5 school years at the preschool, primary, or secondary level in a public school
6 in this state in the person’s chosen critical field or in a community
7 experiencing a critical teacher shortage, as applicable.

8 (d) The amount of scholarship under the Arkansas Teacher Recruitment
9 Scholarship Program shall be two thousand dollars (\$2000) per semester.

10 (e)(1) The person must begin fulfilling the teaching obligation of
11 this section not later than the eighteenth month after the person completes
12 the degree program and any related courses required for teacher
13 certification, unless the Department of Higher Education grants the person
14 additional time to begin fulfilling the teaching obligation.

15 (2) The person must complete the teaching obligation not later
16 than the sixth year after the date the person begins to fulfill the teaching
17 obligation.

18 (3) The Department of Higher Education shall grant a person
19 additional time to complete the teaching obligation for good cause.

20 (f) The Department of Higher Education shall cancel a person’s
21 teaching obligation if the Department of Higher Education determines that the
22 person:

23 (1) Has become permanently disabled so that the person is not
24 able to teach; or

25 (2) Has died.

26 (g)(1) The Department of Higher Education shall require a person who
27 receives a scholarship under the Arkansas Teacher Recruitment Scholarship
28 Program to sign a promissory note acknowledging the conditional nature of the
29 grant and promising to repay the amount of the scholarship plus applicable
30 interest and reasonable collection costs if the person does not satisfy the
31 applicable conditions.

32 (2) The Department of Higher Education shall determine the terms
33 of the promissory note.

34 (h) The amount required to be repaid by a person who fails to complete
35 the teaching obligation of the person’s grant is determined in proportion to
36 the portion of the teaching obligation that the person has not satisfied.

1 (i) If the person fails to remain enrolled in, or to make steady
2 progress in, the degree program for which the scholarship was made without
3 good cause as determined by the Department of Higher Education or if the
4 person fails to become certified as a teacher not later than the eighteenth
5 month after the date the person receives a degree, the scholarship
6 automatically becomes a loan.

7 (j) The requirements of this act is contingent on the appropriation
8 and receipt of sufficient funds.

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