

ARKANSAS SENATE
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 777

"AN ACT TO REPEAL VARIOUS UNFUNDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS."

Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill No. 777.

Amend Senate Bill No. 777 as engrossed, S3/8/01:

Add two new sections immediately following Section 12 to read as follows:

"SECTION 13. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 8 is repealed.

~~6-81-801. Creation.~~

~~There is hereby established a program to be known as "The Minority Teacher Education Loan Program" to be administered by the Department of Higher Education.~~

~~6-81-802. Purpose.~~

~~Arkansas has experienced decreasing numbers of black students pursuing certification as public school teachers and decreasing proportions of black high school graduates entering college with the result that inadequate numbers of black Arkansans are completing teacher certification programs and black students in the public schools of Arkansas are not exposed to sufficient numbers of teachers who are examples of college educated black Arkansans. The purpose of this subchapter is to provide loans to assist and encourage black and other minority Arkansans to enter and complete programs leading to certification as public school teachers. The program will provide loans to students admitted to, and within two (2) years of completing, teacher certification programs.~~

~~6-81-803. Student eligibility—Initial awards.~~

~~(a) The term "minority" when used in this subchapter shall refer to Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, which group includes all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.~~

~~(b) The Department of Higher Education may make initial awards to minority students who meet the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Are residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the Department of Higher Education, and citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens;~~

~~(2) Are within two (2) years of completing initial certification as classroom teachers; and~~

~~(3)(A) Are admitted to an approved program resulting in teacher certification, or plan to transfer to an institution with an approved teacher certification program;~~

~~(B) Have a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system, or its equivalent; and~~

~~(C) Are able to be admitted to the program within the first semester at the new institution.~~

~~6-81-804. Student eligibility—Loan renewal.~~

~~The Department of Higher Education may renew awards to students who meet the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Remain residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the department, and are citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens;~~

~~(2) Maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system, or its equivalent; and~~

~~(3) Complete at least twenty four (24) semester credit hours, or its equivalent, applicable toward teacher certification during the first academic year of the loan.~~

~~6-81-805. Loan conditions.~~

~~(a) Recipients must indicate an intention to teach in the public schools of Arkansas and be enrolled as full-time students pursuing initial certification.~~

~~(b) Students may receive the loan for a maximum of four (4) semesters, or its equivalent, and may utilize the loan upon transfer to any eligible institution.~~

~~6-81-806. Number and amount of loan.~~

~~(a) The number of initial loan awards in each year shall not exceed one hundred (100).~~

~~(b) The amount for each student's loan shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year.~~

~~6-81-807. Institutional eligibility.~~

~~(a) The institution to be attended under the loan program must be a state or independent four-year institution located in Arkansas, meet federal institutional eligibility requirements, and be approved by the Department of Higher Education for the teacher certification program chosen by the student.~~

~~(b) The institution nominating the student for the loan must be a state or independent two-year or four-year institution located in Arkansas, meet federal institutional eligibility requirements, and offer the prerequisite courses for the teacher certification program chosen by the student.~~

~~6-81-808. Selection process.~~

~~(a) Students must be nominated for the loan by an eligible institution and selected by a process administered by the Department of Higher Education.~~

~~(b) The Department of Higher Education shall allocate the numbers of nominations to be submitted among the institutions eligible to make nominations, with consideration given to the number of teacher education graduates, the fall total full-time equivalent enrollment, the utilization of~~

~~loans in the previous year, and such other factors as the department shall determine.~~

~~6-81-809. Cancellation of repayment of loans—Failure to repay.~~

~~(a) Loan recipients who teach full time in a public school in Arkansas following teacher certification shall, upon annual certification by an appropriate school official, have forgiven one fifth (1/5) of the total loan, and related interest, for each year employed in such capacity to a maximum of five (5) years, when the total loan and accumulated interest will be forgiven.~~

~~(b) Loan recipients who do not teach full time in a public school in Arkansas upon completing their program of study shall repay, within a maximum of five (5) years, the full remaining balance plus accrued interest according to an interest and repayment schedule developed by the Department of Higher Education.~~

~~(c) Loan recipients required to repay as provided in subsection (b) of this section who fail to meet their repayment obligations may have added to their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt and shall have their teachers' certifications in Arkansas revoked.~~

~~6-81-810. Administration.~~

~~The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Minority Teacher Education Loan Program and shall have the following authority and responsibility with respect to the program:~~

~~(1) To adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the program consistent with the provisions of this subchapter, including, but not restricted to, the termination date for acceptance of applications and the procedures for payment of loans to recipients;~~

~~(2) To establish and consult as necessary with an advisory committee representing public elementary and secondary schools and the public and private institutions eligible for nomination and attendance under this subchapter in determining rules and regulations, selecting recipients, and such other matters as are necessary;~~

~~(3) To prepare application forms or such other forms as the department shall deem necessary to properly administer and carry out the purpose of this subchapter; and~~

~~(4) To designate necessary forms and repayment schedules.~~

SECTION 14. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 9 is repealed.

~~6-81-901. Creation.~~

~~There is hereby established a program to be known as "The Freshman/Sophomore Minority Prospective Teacher Loan Program" to be administered by the Department of Higher Education.~~

~~6-81-902. Purpose.~~

~~The purpose of this subchapter is to increase the number of black and other minority Arkansans attending college with the intent of pursuing certification to teach in the public schools of Arkansas. The need for the program results from the decrease in the number of black students in teacher certification programs, the decreasing proportions of black high school graduates entering college, and the resulting inadequate opportunities for~~

~~black public school students to experience black teachers who serve as examples of college educated black Arkansans. The program will provide loans to students in their first two (2) years of college who are preparing for admission to teacher certification programs.~~

~~6-81-903. Student eligibility — Initial awards.~~

~~(a) The term "minority" when used in this subchapter shall refer to Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, which group includes all persons having origins in any of the peoples of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.~~

~~(b) State and independent institutions of higher education may make initial awards to minority students who meet the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Are residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the Department of Higher Education, and citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens;~~

~~(2) Are first-time freshmen who state their intent to enter a teacher certification program and teach in the public schools of Arkansas;~~

~~(3) Are students with academic potential based upon a combination of standardized test scores and high school grades; and~~

~~(4) Are students who have completed a specified minimum general education core of academic courses in high school.~~

~~6-81-904. Student eligibility — Loan renewal.~~

~~State and independent institutions of higher education may renew awards to students who meet the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Remain residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the Department of Higher Education, and are citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens;~~

~~(2) Maintain the intent to pursue a teacher certification program and teach in the public schools of Arkansas; and~~

~~(3) Earn a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system, or its equivalent, which the institution would normally specify for students who plan to major in a teacher education program.~~

~~6-81-905. Loan conditions.~~

~~(a) A recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student in courses in, or preparing for entry to, an approved teacher certification program and indicate the intent to teach in the public schools of Arkansas.~~

~~(b) Upon completion of at least one (1) year at the selecting institutions, a student eligible for continuation of the loan may utilize it upon transfer to any eligible institution. A student may receive the loan for a maximum of four (4) semesters, or its equivalent.~~

~~6-81-906. Number and amount of loan.~~

~~(a) The number of initial loan awards in each year shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150).~~

~~(b) The amount for each student's annual loan shall be two thousand dollars (\$2,000).~~

~~6-81-907. Institutional eligibility.~~

~~(a) The institution to be attended under the loan program must be a~~

~~state or independent four year or two year institution in Arkansas and offer the prerequisite courses for entry into teacher certification programs.~~

~~(b) The Department of Higher Education shall allocate initial loans among eligible institutions with consideration given to each institution's share of the fall total full time equivalent enrollment, utilization of loans in the previous year, and other such factors as the department shall determine.~~

~~6-81-908. Selection process.~~

~~(a) Participating eligible institutions will select students under rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Higher Education so as to encourage additional minority students to enter college and prepare for entry into teacher certification programs and choose the most academically qualified minority students who meet the minimum requirements established for the program.~~

~~(b) Institutions may establish requirements more restrictive than the minimum requirements established for the program so long as they do not conflict with the program requirements established by law, rule, and regulation.~~

~~6-81-909. Cancellation of repayment of loans — Failure to repay.~~

~~(a) Loan recipients who teach full time in a public school in Arkansas following teacher certification shall, upon annual certification by an appropriate school official, have forgiven one fifth (1/5) of the total loan payment, and related interest, for each year employed in such capacity to a maximum of five (5) years, when the total loan and accumulated interest will be forgiven.~~

~~(b) Loan recipients who do not teach full time in a public school in Arkansas upon completing their program of study shall repay, within a maximum of five (5) years, the full remaining balance plus accrued interest according to an interest and repayment schedule developed by the Department of Higher Education.~~

~~(c) Loan recipients required to repay as provided in subsection (b) of this section who fail to meet their repayment obligations may have added to their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt and shall have their teaching certifications in Arkansas revoked by the State Board of Education.~~

~~6-81-910. Administration.~~

~~The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Minority Prospective Teacher Loan Program and shall have the following authority and responsibility with respect to the program:~~

~~(1) To adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the program consistent with the provisions of this subchapter, including, but not restricted to, the termination date for acceptance and applications and procedures for payment of loans to recipients;~~

~~(2) To establish and consult as necessary with an advisory committee representing public elementary and secondary schools and the public and private institutions eligible for nomination and attendance under this subchapter in determining rules and regulations, selecting recipients, and such other matters as are necessary;~~

~~(3) To prepare application forms or such other forms as the~~

~~department shall deem necessary to properly administer and carry out the purpose of this subchapter; and~~

~~(4) To designate necessary forms and repayment schedules."~~

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Mahony

KAS/KAS - 040520011647

KAS272

Secretary