
SENATE BILL 6097

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Dammeier, Rolfes, Litzow, Billig, Hargrove, Nelson, McAuliffe, and Conway

Read first time 04/13/15. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the future teachers conditional
2 scholarship and loan repayment program to increase the number of
3 early elementary teachers; and amending RCW 28B.102.010, 28B.102.030,
4 28B.102.040, 28B.102.050, 28B.102.055, 28B.102.060, and 28B.102.080.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.102.010 and 2004 c 58 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The legislature finds that encouraging outstanding students to
9 enter the teaching profession as early elementary teachers is of
10 paramount importance to the state of Washington as the state
11 implements the K-3 class size enhancements that were adopted by the
12 legislature in Substitute House Bill No. 2776, chapter 236, Laws of
13 2010. By (~~creating~~) modifying the future teachers conditional
14 scholarship and loan repayment program, the legislature intends to
15 assist in the effort to recruit as future K-3 teachers individuals
16 who have distinguished themselves through outstanding academic
17 achievement or demonstrated their commitment to teaching through work
18 as a paraprofessional in the public school system, and who can act as
19 role models for children. The legislature urges business, industry,
20 and philanthropic community organizations to join with state
21 government in making this program successful. While the legislature

1 intends for this program to assist school districts to have a
2 sufficient pool of competent and qualified early elementary teacher
3 applicants to implement the required basic education K-3 class size
4 reduction, the legislature does not intend to include this program
5 within the state's obligation for basic education funding under
6 Article IX of the state Constitution.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.102.030 and 2012 c 229 s 563 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The future teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment
10 program is ~~((established))~~ modified to increase the number of early
11 elementary teachers in Washington teaching in a classroom in any of
12 the grades kindergarten through three. The program shall be
13 administered by the student achievement council. In administering the
14 program, the council shall have the following powers and duties:

15 (1) Select students to receive conditional scholarships or loan
16 repayments as provided in RCW 28B.102.040;

17 (2) Adopt necessary rules and guidelines;

18 (3) Publicize the program;

19 (4) Collect and manage repayments from students who do not meet
20 their teaching obligations under this chapter; and

21 (5) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public and
22 private sources for the program.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.102.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 178 are each
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (1) The ~~((office—may))~~ student achievement council, in
26 cooperation with the professional educator standards board, shall
27 select participants based on an application process conducted by the
28 office ~~((or the office may utilize selection processes for similar~~
29 ~~students in cooperation with the professional educator standards~~
30 ~~board or the office of the superintendent of public instruction)).~~

31 (2) ~~((If the office selects participants for the program, it~~
32 ~~shall establish))~~ A selection committee for screening and selecting
33 recipients of the conditional scholarships shall be established by
34 the student achievement council, in cooperation with the professional
35 educator standards board. The criteria shall emphasize factors
36 demonstrating excellence including but not limited to superior
37 scholastic achievement, leadership ability, community contributions,
38 bilingual ability, willingness to commit to providing teaching

1 service in (~~shortage areas~~) any of the grades kindergarten through
2 three, and an ability to act as a role model for students. (~~Priority~~
3 ~~will be given to individuals seeking certification or an additional~~
4 ~~endorsement in math, science, technology education, agricultural~~
5 ~~education, business and marketing education, family and consumer~~
6 ~~science education, or special education.~~)

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.102.050 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 179 are each
8 amended to read as follows:

9 The office may award conditional scholarships or provide loan
10 repayments to eligible participants from the funds appropriated to
11 the office for this purpose, or from any private donations, or any
12 other funds given to the office for this program. The amount of the
13 conditional scholarship or loan repayment awarded an individual shall
14 not exceed the amount of tuition and fees at the institution of
15 higher education attended by the participant (~~or resident~~
16 ~~undergraduate tuition and fees at the University of Washington per~~
17 ~~academic year for a full-time student, whichever is lower~~).
18 Participants are eligible to receive conditional scholarships or loan
19 repayments for a maximum of (~~five~~) four years.

20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.102.055 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 180 are each
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (1) Upon documentation of federal student loan indebtedness, the
23 office may enter into agreements with participants to repay (~~all or~~
24 ~~part of~~) a federal student loan in exchange for teaching service in
25 (~~an approved educational program~~) a public school in Washington in
26 any of the grades kindergarten through three. The ratio of loan
27 repayment to years of teaching service for the loan repayment program
28 shall be the same as established for the conditional scholarship
29 program.

30 (2) The agreement shall specify the period of time it is in
31 effect and detail the obligations of the office and the participant,
32 including the amount to be paid to the participant. (~~The agreement~~
33 ~~may also specify the geographic location and subject matter area of~~
34 ~~teaching service for which loan repayment will be provided.~~)

35 (3) At the end of each school year, a participant under this
36 section shall provide evidence to the office that the requisite
37 teaching service has been provided. Upon receipt of the evidence, the
38 office shall pay the participant the agreed-upon amount for one year

1 of full-time teaching service or a prorated amount for less than
2 full-time teaching service. To qualify for additional loan
3 repayments, the participant must be engaged in continuous teaching
4 service as defined by the office.

5 (4) The office may, at its discretion, arrange to make the loan
6 repayment directly to the holder of the participant's federal student
7 loan.

8 (5) The office's obligations to a participant under this section
9 shall cease when:

10 (a) The terms of the agreement have been fulfilled;

11 (b) The participant fails to maintain continuous teaching service
12 as determined by the office; or

13 (c) All of the participant's federal student loans have been
14 repaid.

15 (6) The office shall adopt rules governing loan repayments,
16 including approved leaves of absence from continuous teaching service
17 and other deferments as may be necessary.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.102.060 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 181 are each
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (1) Participants in the conditional scholarship program incur an
21 obligation to repay the conditional scholarship, with interest and an
22 equalization fee, unless they teach (~~((for two years))~~) in (~~((an~~
23 ~~approved education program))~~) a public school in Washington in any of
24 the grades kindergarten through three for each year of scholarship
25 received, under rules adopted by the office. (~~((Participants who teach~~
26 ~~in a designated teacher shortage area shall have one year of loan~~
27 ~~canceled for each year they teach in the shortage area.))~~)

28 (2) The interest rate shall be determined by the office.
29 Participants who fail to complete the teaching service shall incur an
30 equalization fee based on the remaining unforgiven balance of the
31 loan. The equalization fee shall be added to the remaining balance
32 and repaid by the participant.

33 (3) The minimum payment shall be set by the office. The maximum
34 period for repayment shall be ten years, with payments of principal
35 and interest commencing six months from the date the participant
36 completes or discontinues the course of study. The interest rate
37 shall be determined by the office and be established by rule.
38 Provisions for deferral of payment shall be determined by the office.
39 The office shall establish an appeal process by rule.

1 (4) The entire principal and interest of each payment shall be
2 forgiven for each payment period in which the participant teaches in
3 (~~(an approved education program)~~) a public school in Washington in
4 any of the grades kindergarten through three until the entire
5 repayment obligation is satisfied. Should the participant cease to
6 teach in (~~(an approved education program in this state)~~) a public
7 school in Washington in any of the grades kindergarten through three
8 before the participant's repayment obligation is completed, payments
9 on the unsatisfied portion of the principal and interest shall begin
10 the next payment period and continue until the remainder of the
11 participant's repayment obligation is satisfied.

12 (5) The office is responsible for collection of repayments made
13 under this section and shall exercise due diligence in such
14 collection, maintaining all necessary records to insure that maximum
15 repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments under
16 this section shall be pursued using the full extent of the law,
17 including wage garnishment if necessary. The office is responsible to
18 forgive all or parts of such repayments under the criteria
19 established in this section and shall maintain all necessary records
20 of forgiven payments.

21 (6) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest or any
22 other subsidies to which the office as administrator is entitled,
23 which are paid by or on behalf of participants under this section,
24 shall be deposited in the future teachers conditional scholarship
25 account and shall be used to cover the costs of granting the
26 conditional scholarships, maintaining necessary records, and making
27 collections under subsection (5) of this section. The office shall
28 maintain accurate records of these costs, and all receipts beyond
29 those necessary to pay such costs shall be used to grant conditional
30 scholarships to eligible students.

31 (7) The office shall adopt rules to define the terms of
32 repayment, including applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

33 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.102.080 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 182 are each
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) The future teachers conditional scholarship account is
36 created in the custody of the state treasurer. An appropriation is
37 not required for expenditures of funds from the account. The account
38 is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW except
39 for moneys used for program administration.

1 (2) The office shall deposit in the account all moneys received
2 for the future teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment
3 program and for conditional loan programs under chapter 28A.660 RCW.
4 The account shall be self-sustaining and consist of funds
5 appropriated by the legislature for the future teachers conditional
6 scholarship and loan repayment program, private contributions to the
7 program, receipts from participant repayments from the future
8 teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment program, and
9 conditional loan programs established under chapter 28A.660 RCW.
10 ~~((Beginning July 1, 2004,))~~ The office shall also deposit into the
11 account: (a) All funds from the institution of higher education loan
12 account that are traceable to any conditional scholarship program for
13 teachers or prospective teachers established by the legislature
14 before June 10, 2004; and (b) all amounts repaid by individuals under
15 any such program.

16 (3) Expenditures from the account may be used solely for
17 conditional loans and loan repayments to participants in the future
18 teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment program
19 established by this chapter, conditional scholarships for
20 participants in programs established in chapter 28A.660 RCW, and
21 costs associated with program administration by the office.

22 (4) Disbursements from the account may be made only on the
23 authorization of the office.

24 ~~((5) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may
25 transfer from the future teachers conditional scholarship account to
26 the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund
27 balance of the account.))~~

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