

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2102

To authorize recruitment and retention incentive programs, student loan forgiveness, and professional development programs for teachers in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON (for herself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. NEY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. SHOWS, Mrs. THURMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. JOHN, and Mr. LAHOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize recruitment and retention incentive programs, student loan forgiveness, and professional development programs for teachers in rural areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Teachers Re-
5 cruitment Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANTS.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is au-
8 thorized to provide grants to rural eligible local edu-

1 cational agencies to enable the agencies to recruit and re-
2 tain qualified teachers for elementary and secondary
3 schools.

4 (b) RURAL ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
5 CIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section,
6 a rural eligible local educational agency shall—

7 (1) submit an application to the Secretary at
8 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
9 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require;
10 and

11 (2) demonstrate a need to recruit and retain
12 additional qualified elementary and secondary school
13 teachers.

14 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant award made under
15 this section shall be of sufficient size to enable a grantee
16 to develop incentive programs to recruit and retain quali-
17 fied teachers.

18 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—A rural eligible local edu-
19 cational agency that receives a grant award under this sec-
20 tion may use such funds received to develop incentive pro-
21 grams to recruit and retain qualified teachers. Such incen-
22 tive programs may include—

23 (1) salary increases;

24 (2) reimbursement for teacher certification ex-
25 penses;

1 (3) assistance to pay college tuition expenses;

2 (4) assistance to pay graduate school tuition
3 and training expenses; and

4 (5) reimbursement for relocation expenses.

5 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

6 (1) the term “local educational agency” has the
7 same meaning given such term in section 14101(18)
8 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801(18));

10 (2) the term “metropolitan statistical area” has
11 the same meaning given such term by the Bureau of
12 the Census;

13 (3) the term “rural eligible educational agency”
14 means a local educational agency—

15 (A) that is not located in a metropolitan
16 statistical area; and

17 (B) in which 20 percent or more of the
18 children, ages 5 through 17, served by such
19 agency are from families below the poverty
20 level, as determined by the Secretary; and

21 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Education.

23 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
25 section—

1 (1) \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002
2 and 2003;

3 (2) \$400,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004
4 and 2005; and

5 (3) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

6 **SEC. 3. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR RURAL TEACHERS.**

7 Section 428J(b)(1) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–10(b)(1)) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
10 by striking “teacher for 5 consecutive complete
11 school years—” and inserting “teacher—”; and

12 (2) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
13 follows:

14 “(A) in a school—

15 “(i) for 5 consecutive complete school
16 years, if the school qualifies under section
17 465(a)(2)(A) for loan cancellation for Per-
18 kins loan recipients who teach in such
19 schools; or

20 “(ii) for 3 consecutive complete school
21 years, if the school is located in a county
22 with a population density of less than 200
23 persons per square mile;”.

1 **SEC. 4. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN MATHEMATICS**
 2 **AND SCIENCE FOR RURAL TEACHERS.**

3 Part A of title II of the Elementary and Secondary
 4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6621 et seq.) is amend-
 5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 2104. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN MATHE-**
 7 **MATICS AND SCIENCE FOR RURAL TEACH-**
 8 **ERS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
 10 on a competitive basis to rural eligible local educational
 11 agencies to develop and implement high-quality profes-
 12 sional development programs in mathematics and science
 13 for teachers.

14 “(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
 15 under this section, a rural eligible local educational agency
 16 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
 17 in such manner, and containing such information as the
 18 Secretary may reasonably require.

19 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA.—The
 21 term ‘metropolitan statistical area’ has the meaning
 22 given such term by the Bureau of the Census.

23 “(2) RURAL ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL
 24 AGENCY.—The term ‘rural eligible local educational
 25 agency’ means a local educational agency—

1 “(A) that is not located in a metropolitan
2 statistical area; and

3 “(B) in which 20 percent or more of the
4 children, ages 5 through 17, served by such
5 agency are from families below the poverty
6 level, as determined by the Secretary.”.

○