

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1261

To establish the Education Scholars Block Grant Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 1997

Mr. FRIST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To establish the Education Scholars Block Grant Program.

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. EDUCATION SCHOLARS BLOCK GRANT PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by adding at
7 the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 9—Education Scholars Block Grant**
2 **Program**

3 **“SEC. 420G. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSE; AUTHORIZATION OF**
4 **APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 “(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subpart may be cited as
6 the ‘Teacher Investment Act’.

7 “(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subpart—

8 “(1) to attract more of our Nation’s most aca-
9 demically gifted students into teaching careers in el-
10 ementary and secondary education;

11 “(2) to retain in teaching our Nation’s best
12 teachers who have demonstrated promise in, and a
13 commitment to, a teaching career;

14 “(3) to increase the public status of a teaching
15 career in elementary and secondary education;

16 “(4) to address the anticipated shortage of
17 teachers in the next several decades; and

18 “(5) to provide States with the flexibility to in-
19 tegrate State teacher education initiatives with Fed-
20 eral teacher scholarship support.

21 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart
23 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 1998 and
24 each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

1 **“SEC. 420H. SCHOLARSHIP AUTHORIZED.**

2 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
3 award grants to States from allotments under section 420I
4 to enable the States to provide scholarships to individuals
5 who—

6 “(1)(A) have completed at least half of the aca-
7 demic credit requirements for graduation from an
8 institution of higher education with a bachelor’s de-
9 gree, or with a graduate degree that prepares the in-
10 dividual for licensure or certification as an elemen-
11 tary school or secondary school teacher;

12 “(2) are admitted to or enrolled in an institu-
13 tion of higher education;

14 “(3) have demonstrated outstanding academic
15 achievement while enrolled in an institution of high-
16 er education; and

17 “(4) are committed to becoming or remaining
18 elementary school or secondary school teachers.

19 “(b) PERIOD OF AWARD.—A State shall determine
20 the scholarship period, except that a scholarship recipient
21 shall not receive a scholarship award for more than 2
22 years of study at any institution of higher education.

23 **“SEC. 420I. ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.**

24 “(a) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—From the sums ap-
25 propriated pursuant to the authority of section 420G(c)
26 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State

1 that has an agreement under section 420J an amount
 2 equal to \$5,000 multiplied by the number of scholarships
 3 determined by the Secretary to be available to such State
 4 in accordance with subsection (b).

5 “(b) NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.—The
 6 number of scholarships to be made available in a State
 7 for any fiscal year shall bear the same ratio to the number
 8 of scholarships made available to all States as the State’s
 9 population ages 5 through 17 bears to the population ages
 10 5 through 17 in all the States, except that not less than
 11 10 scholarships shall be made available to any State.

12 “(c) USE OF CENSUS DATA.—For the purpose of this
 13 section, the population ages 5 through 17 in a State and
 14 in all the States shall be determined by the most recently
 15 available data from the Bureau of the Census that the
 16 Secretary determines is satisfactory.

17 **“SEC. 420J. STATE AGREEMENTS.**

18 “The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with
 19 each State desiring to participate in the scholarship pro-
 20 gram under this subpart. Each such agreement shall in-
 21 clude provisions to ensure that—

22 “(1) the State educational agency will admin-
 23 ister the program in the State;

24 “(2) the State educational agency will comply
 25 with the provisions of this subpart;

1 “(3) the State educational agency will conduct
2 outreach activities to publicize the availability of the
3 scholarships to all eligible postsecondary students in
4 the State, with particular emphasis on activities de-
5 signed to ensure that students from low-income and
6 moderate-income families have access to the infor-
7 mation regarding the opportunity for full participa-
8 tion in the program; and

9 “(4) the State educational agency will pay to
10 each individual in the State who is awarded a schol-
11 arship the cost of tuition and fees at an institution
12 of higher education for a year, except that such pay-
13 ment shall not exceed \$5,000.

14 **“SEC. 420K. SELECTION OF EDUCATION SCHOLARS.**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA.—The State
16 educational agency shall establish the criteria for selection
17 of scholars. Such criteria shall—

18 “(1) fulfill the purpose of the subpart in ac-
19 cordance with a State’s projected elementary school
20 and secondary school teaching needs and priorities;
21 and

22 “(2) require a scholarship recipient to have
23 demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and
24 a commitment to a teaching career, as determined
25 by the State educational agency.

1 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—In awarding scholarships under
2 this subpart, the State educational agency shall provide—

3 “(1) not less than 75 percent of the scholar-
4 ships to individuals who do not possess a bachelor’s
5 degree; and

6 “(2) not more than 25 percent of the scholar-
7 ships to individuals who are pursuing a graduate de-
8 gree.

9 “(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In carrying
10 out this subpart, the State educational agency shall con-
11 sult with school administrators, school boards, teachers,
12 and counselors.

13 **“SEC. 420L. AWARD AMOUNT; SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS.**

14 “(a) AWARD AMOUNT.—Each individual awarded a
15 scholarship under this subpart shall receive an award for
16 the cost of tuition and fees at an institution of higher edu-
17 cation of not more than \$5,000 for an academic year of
18 study.

19 “(b) CONDITIONS.—Each State educational agency
20 receiving a grant under this subpart shall establish proce-
21 dures to ensure that each scholarship recipient—

22 “(1) pursues a course of study at an institution
23 of higher education;

24 “(2) maintains a 3.0 grade point average on a
25 4.0 scale; and

1 “(3) enters into an agreement to teach in ac-
 2 cordance with section 420M(a).

3 **“SEC. 420M. SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT; REPAYMENT**
 4 **PROVISIONS.**

5 “(a) SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT.—Each recipient of
 6 a scholarship under this subpart shall enter into an agree-
 7 ment with the State educational agency under which the
 8 recipient shall—

9 “(1) within the 2-year period after completing
 10 the education for which the scholarship was award-
 11 ed, teach for a period of 2 years as an elementary
 12 school or secondary school teacher in the State
 13 served by the State educational agency;

14 “(2) provide the State educational agency with
 15 evidence of compliance, determined pursuant to reg-
 16 ulations promulgated by the Secretary, with the pro-
 17 visions of paragraph (1); and

18 “(3) repay all or part of the scholarship award
 19 received in accordance with subsection (b) in the
 20 event the conditions of paragraph (1) are not com-
 21 plied with, except as provided by section 420N.

22 “(b) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—A recipient of a
 23 scholarship found by the State educational agency to be
 24 in noncompliance with the agreement entered into under
 25 subsection (a) shall be required to repay to the State edu-

1 cational agency a pro rata amount of such scholarship as-
 2 sistance received, plus interest, at the rate of 8 percent
 3 or the rate applicable to loans in the applicable period
 4 under part B of this title, whichever is lower, and where
 5 applicable, reasonable collection fees, on a schedule to be
 6 prescribed by the Secretary pursuant to regulations pro-
 7 mulgated under this subpart.

8 **“SEC. 420N. EXCEPTIONS TO REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.**

9 “(a) DEFERRAL DURING CERTAIN PERIODS.—A
 10 scholarship recipient shall not be considered in violation
 11 of the agreement entered into pursuant to section
 12 420M(a) during any period in which the recipient—

13 “(1) is pursuing a full-time course of study re-
 14 lated to the field of teaching at an institution of
 15 higher education;

16 “(2) is serving, not in excess of 3 years, as a
 17 member of the Armed Forces;

18 “(3) is temporarily totally disabled for a period
 19 of time not to exceed 3 years as established by the
 20 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician;

21 “(4) is unable to secure employment for a pe-
 22 riod not to exceed 12 months by reason of the care
 23 required by a spouse who is disabled;

1 “(5) is seeking and unable to find full-time em-
 2 ployment for a single period not to exceed 12
 3 months; or

4 “(6) satisfies the provisions of additional repay-
 5 ment exceptions that may be prescribed by the Sec-
 6 retary in regulations promulgated under this sub-
 7 part.

8 “(b) **FORGIVENESS IF PERMANENTLY TOTALLY DIS-**
 9 **ABLED.**—A recipient shall be excused from repayment of
 10 any scholarship assistance received under this subpart if
 11 the recipient becomes permanently and totally disabled as
 12 established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

13 **“SEC. 4200. CONSTRUCTION OF NEEDS PROVISIONS.**

14 “Except as provided in section 471, nothing in this
 15 subpart, or any other Act, shall be construed to permit
 16 the receipt of a scholarship under this subpart to be count-
 17 ed for any needs analysis in connection with the awarding
 18 of any grant or the making of any loan under this Act
 19 or any other provision of Federal law relating to education
 20 assistance.”.

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