

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4143

To establish a national teaching fellowship program to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the field of teaching at public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2000

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a national teaching fellowship program to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the field of teaching at public schools.

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 “Teaching Fellows Act
5 of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The United States faces an increasing need
9 for high-quality educators.

1 (2) Up to 1,000,000 of the country's 3,000,000
2 teachers will retire in the next 5 years. American
3 schools will have to hire 2,200,000 teachers by 2010.

4 (3) The Congress desires to inspire promising
5 high school seniors and accomplished persons cur-
6 rently involved in the field of education to become
7 certified teachers.

8 (4) The opportunity created by a fellowship
9 program would allow persons in the field of edu-
10 cation the financial opportunity to obtain a quality
11 education which they would use to teach America's
12 youth.

13 (5) The Congress desires to motivate those who
14 go into the field of teaching to become career edu-
15 cators.

16 (6) Many teacher assistants have received their
17 training at community colleges and have the poten-
18 tial and desire to obtain degrees in education and
19 certification as teachers.

20 (7) Rural communities could greatly benefit
21 from encouraging those in the community who al-
22 ready have an interest in teaching to pursue a de-
23 gree in education and become career educators.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

2 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
3 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) by striking out the head of such title and
5 inserting the following:

6 **“TITLE II—TEACHER QUALITY**
7 **“Part A—Teacher Quality Enhance-**
8 **ment Grants for States and**
9 **Partnerships”;**

10 (2) by striking out “this title” each place it ap-
11 pears in section 201 through 209 and inserting “this
12 part”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new part:

14 **“Part B—Federal Teaching and**
15 **Partnership Fellows**

16 **“SEC. 211. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BENEFITING HIGH**
17 **SCHOOL SENIORS.**

18 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
19 courage promising high school seniors to enter the field
20 of teaching and become career educators.

21 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL TEACHING FEL-
22 LOWS PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.—

23 “(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—

24 From the funds appropriated under subsection (g),
25 the Secretary shall make grants available to States
26 for the purpose of establishing State Teaching Fel-

1 lows Program to provide scholarships for Teaching
2 Fellows. Such scholarships shall be used to pay for
3 higher education tuition, fees, and other costs of at-
4 tendance.

5 “(2) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—Teaching Fel-
6 lows shall be selected from individuals who—

7 “(A) at the time of application, are high
8 school seniors;

9 “(B) are United States citizens or legal
10 aliens;

11 “(C) are residents of the State sponsoring
12 the Fellows Program to which they are apply-
13 ing; and

14 “(D) meet the criteria established under
15 subsection (d)(1)(B).

16 “(c) COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—

17 “(1) STATE APPLICATION TO PROGRAM.—The
18 governor of each State desiring to participate in the
19 Partnership Program shall designate a single State
20 agency to submit an application to the Secretary and
21 to administer the State Fellows Program. Such
22 agency shall have a full-time staff and may be a di-
23 vision of the State’s education department, an inde-
24 pendent government agency, or a non-profit organi-
25 zation. Any such application shall be submitted to

1 the Secretary at such time, and contain such infor-
2 mation, as the Secretary shall require.

3 “(2) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—From the ap-
4 plications submitted by State agencies, the Secretary
5 shall approve those applications that the Secretary
6 determines to be the most promising in carrying out
7 the purposes of the Fellows Program. Each State
8 whose application is selected by the Secretary to par-
9 ticipate in the Fellows Program shall receive funds
10 to offer scholarships in an amount determined by
11 the Secretary in light of the amount of the total ap-
12 propriation for the Fellows Program, the relative
13 size of the State’s student population, and the fund-
14 ing necessary to administer a viable State Fellows
15 Program. Such funds shall go to the State agency
16 designated in subsection (c)(1).

17 “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE RECEIPT OF FED-
18 ERAL FUNDS.—Each State participating in the Fellows
19 Program shall—

20 “(1) provide information and assurances—

21 “(A) identifying the institutions of higher
22 education within the State, either private or
23 public, that will participate in the Fellows Pro-
24 gram;

1 “(B) establishing specific, rigorous criteria
2 to be used in selecting Teaching Fellows;

3 “(C) providing that the State will offer no
4 less than \$6,500 per year in scholarships to
5 each Fellow;

6 “(D) providing that each participating in-
7 stitution will provide a full-time faculty member
8 to serve as the Fellows Program director and to
9 work closely with the State agency to admin-
10 ister the campus program and create and exe-
11 cute the extra-curricular enrichment programs;

12 “(E) describing mandatory extra-curricular
13 enrichment programs and activities as part of
14 the State’s Fellows Program that—

15 “(i) are designed to motivate students
16 to become career educators;

17 “(ii) provide Teaching Fellows with a
18 multidisciplinary education;

19 “(iii) are offered regularly during each
20 year of schooling (including during inter-
21 vals between periods of enrollment); and

22 “(iv) expose Fellows to the State’s
23 business, political, demographic, and eco-
24 nomic climate and help Fellows develop
25 leadership qualities; and

1 “(F) establishing procedures for the dis-
2 tribution of scholarships and administration of
3 service obligation oversight;

4 “(2) provide an assurance that the State agency
5 shall match the Federal funds provided under this
6 section by providing at least 25 percent of the total
7 cost of the Fellows Program;

8 “(3) use funds received under this section only
9 to supplement the amount of funds that would, in
10 the absence of such Federal funds, be made avail-
11 able from non-Federal sources for the purposes of
12 this section, and not to supplant such funds; and

13 “(4) provide an assurance that Teaching Fel-
14 lows fulfill their teaching commitments at United
15 States public schools within that State only.

16 “(e) CONVERSION TO LOAN.—

17 “(1) OBLIGATION TO REPAY.—The Fellows
18 Program shall require that a Teaching Fellow agree
19 to repay a pro rata amount, as determined by the
20 State agency, of the scholarship received from the
21 Fellows Program, and to pay interest on such pro
22 rata amount at an annual rate of 10 percent until
23 such pro rata amount is repaid, if the recipient fails
24 to comply with one of the following:

1 “(A) Within 7 years after graduation the
2 recipient of the scholarship teaches for 4 years
3 at a public school.

4 “(B) Within 7 years after graduation the
5 recipient teaches for 3 consecutive years, unless
6 the recipient takes an approved leave of ab-
7 sence, a public school that at the time the re-
8 cipient accepts employment is a low-performing
9 school system as defined by the United States
10 Department of Education.

11 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
12 apply if the State agency finds that it is impossible
13 for the recipient to teach for 4 years, within 7 years
14 after the recipient graduates, at a public school be-
15 cause of the death or permanent disability of the re-
16 cipient.

17 “(f) REVOLVING FUNDING.—Any funds repaid by a
18 Teaching Fellow pursuant to subsection (e) may be re-
19 tained by the State agency for making available additional
20 scholarships under this section.

21 “(g) FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
22 to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2001
23 and such sums as may be necessary for the 4 succeeding
24 fiscal years.

25 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

1 “(1) FELLOWS PROGRAM.—The term ‘Fellows
2 Program’ means the program established under this
3 section.

4 “(2) TEACHING FELLOWS.—The term ‘Teach-
5 ing Fellow’ means an individual selected for an
6 award of financial assistance under this section.

7 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the
8 several States, the District of Columbia, and the
9 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

10 “(4) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
11 means the agency designated pursuant to subsection
12 (c)(1).

13 **“SEC. 212. FEDERAL TEACHING FELLOWS PARTNERSHIP**
14 **PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
16 courage members of the education community, such as
17 teaching assistants and other public employees, who are
18 not yet certified teachers to obtain a degree in education.

19 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL TEACHING FEL-
20 LOWS PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.—

21 “(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—
22 From the funds appropriated under subsection (h),
23 the Secretary shall make grants available to States
24 for the purpose of establishing Partnership Pro-

grams between associate-degree-granting institutions
and bachelor-degree-granting institutions.

“(2) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—Partnership
Fellows shall be selected from individuals who—

“(A) are United States citizens or legal
aliens;

“(B) are residents of the State sponsoring
the partnership program to which they are ap-
plying; and

“(C) meet the criteria established under
subsection (e)(1).

“(c) COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—

“(1) STATE REVIEW AND SUBMISSION.—The
governor of each State desiring to participate in the
Partnership Program shall designate a single State
education department or agency—

“(A) to receive and review partnership pro-
posals from associate-degree-granting institu-
tions and bachelor-degree-granting institutions
within the State;

“(B) to determine which proposals delin-
eate Partnership Programs to be created be-
tween associate-degree-granting institutions and
bachelor-degree-granting institutions that are

1 the most promising in carrying out the pur-
2 poses of this section;

3 “(C) to submit the partnership proposals
4 that are approved by the State agency to the
5 Secretary for competitive selection in the form
6 of one single partnership proposal application;
7 and

8 “(D) to administer the funds available
9 under this section.

10 “(2) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—From the
11 partnership proposal applications submitted by State
12 agencies under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
13 select for funding under this section those applica-
14 tions that the Secretary determines to be the most
15 promising in carrying out the purposes of the Part-
16 nership Program. The Secretary shall distribute the
17 awards for each selected application to the State
18 agency that submitted the application.

19 “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE RECEIPT OF FED-
20 ERAL FUNDS.—A State agency that submits a partnership
21 proposal application to the Secretary under subsection (c)
22 shall provide to the Secretary such information and assur-
23 ances as the Secretary may require to demonstrate that
24 the State will comply with the following requirements:

1 “(1) Any State whose partnership proposal ap-
2 plication is selected to receive Federal funds as au-
3 thorized by this section shall match the Federal
4 funding by providing at least 25 percent of the total
5 cost of the Partnership Program or Programs.

6 “(2) The State agency may reserve up to 20
7 percent of its Federal funding to be used for admin-
8 istrative costs associated with the creation of articu-
9 lation agreements between one or more associate-de-
10 gree-granting institutions and one or more bachelor-
11 degree-granting institutions that detail the partner-
12 ship arrangement between the institutions. Such re-
13 served administrative funds shall be made available
14 to the associate-degree-granting institution in order
15 to make its curricula compatible with the bachelor-
16 degree-granting institution’s requirements and to
17 allow the associate-degree-granting institution to
18 sponsor extra-curricular activities for its Fellows as
19 specified in subsection (e)(3).

20 “(3) The State agency shall be responsible for
21 determining how the funds provided under this sec-
22 tion are allocated among specific partnership pro-
23 posals.

24 “(4) The State agency shall be responsible for
25 assuring such funds are used to provide full-time

1 Partnership Fellows with scholarships of no less
2 than \$6,500 per year, or a total of \$26,000, over a
3 course of 6 years. Partnership Fellows pursuing a
4 part-time course load, as defined by the institution
5 attended, shall receive a pro rata scholarship. The
6 scholarship amount shall be a fraction of the full-
7 time scholarship amount and shall be reduced ac-
8 cording to the number of credits being pursued.
9 Partnership Programs also may make scholarship
10 funds available during the period of student teaching
11 as prescribed by subsection (e)(6).

12 “(5) The State agency will use funds received
13 under this section only to supplement the amount of
14 funds that would, in the absence of such Federal
15 funds, be made available from non-Federal sources
16 for the purposes of this section, and not to supplant
17 such funds.

18 “(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTNERSHIP PRO-
19 POSALS.—Each partnership proposal under this section
20 shall be submitted by one or more associate-degree-grant-
21 ing institutions and one or more bachelor-degree-granting
22 institutions and shall propose the establishment of a pro-
23 gram allowing individuals, such as those currently in the
24 education field, to complete a bachelor’s degree in edu-
25 cation. Such proposals shall include—

1 “(1) identification of specific, rigorous criteria
2 to be used in selecting Partnership Fellows, includ-
3 ing outstanding achievement in the field of edu-
4 cation, a firm commitment to the field of education,
5 and aptitude to succeed as a teacher;

6 “(2) designation of a full-time faculty member
7 at each participating institution to serve as the Part-
8 nership Program director and to work closely with
9 the State agency to administer the program and cre-
10 ate and execute the extra-curricular enrichment pro-
11 grams;

12 “(3) mandatory extra-curricular enrichment
13 programs and activities as part of the State’s Fel-
14 lows Program that—

15 “(A) are designed to motivate students to
16 become career educators;

17 “(B) provide Fellows with a multidisci-
18 plinary education;

19 “(C) are offered regularly during each year
20 of schooling (including during intervals between
21 periods of enrollment); and

22 “(D) expose Fellows to the State’s busi-
23 ness, political, demographic, and economic cli-
24 mate and help Fellows develop leadership quali-
25 ties;

1 “(4) a specific description of how the proposed
2 Partnership Program will provide individuals in
3 rural or underserved communities access to the op-
4 portunities created by the Partnership Program;

5 “(5) a description of how the program will ac-
6 commodate Partnership Fellows who must maintain
7 employment while pursuing a degree, whether via
8 distance learning methods, minimum credit require-
9 ments, or other programs;

10 “(6) a description of how the program will as-
11 sist Partnership Fellows in accordance with sub-
12 section (d)(4) during the period of student teaching
13 should they be otherwise financially unable to com-
14 plete such a requirement; and

15 “(7) an itemized account of how the funds will
16 be allocated to best achieve the goals of the Partner-
17 ship Program.

18 “(f) CONVERSION TO LOAN.—

19 “(1) OBLIGATION TO REPAY.—The Partnership
20 Program shall require that a Partnership Fellow
21 agree to repay a pro rata amount, as determined by
22 the State agency, of the scholarship received from
23 the Partnership Program, and to pay interest on
24 such pro rata amount at an annual rate of 10 per-

1 cent until such pro rata amount is repaid, if the re-
2 cipient fails to comply with one of the following:

3 “(A) Within 7 years after graduation the
4 recipient of the scholarship teaches for 4 years
5 at a public school.

6 “(B) Within 7 years after graduation the
7 recipient teaches for 3 consecutive years, unless
8 the recipient takes an approved leave of ab-
9 sence, at a public school that at the time the re-
10 cipient accepts employment is a low-performing
11 school system as defined by the United States
12 Department of Education.

13 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
14 apply if the State agency finds that it is impossible
15 for the recipient to teach for 4 years, within 7 years
16 after the recipient graduates, at a public school be-
17 cause of the death or permanent disability of the re-
18 cipient.

19 “(g) REVOLVING FUNDING.—Any funds repaid by a
20 Partnership Fellow pursuant to subsection (f) may be re-
21 tained by the State agency for making available additional
22 scholarships under this section.

23 “(h) FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
24 to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2001

1 and such sums as necessary for the 4 subsequent fiscal
2 years.

3 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

4 “(1) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—the term ‘Part-
5 nership Program’ means the program established
6 under this section.

7 “(2) PARTNERSHIP FELLOWS.—The term
8 ‘Partnership Fellow’ means an individual selected
9 for an award of financial assistance under this sec-
10 tion.

11 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the
12 several States, the District of Columbia, and the
13 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

14 “(4) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
15 means the agency designated pursuant to subsection
16 (c)(1).”.

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