

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 989

To improve the quality of individuals becoming teachers in elementary and secondary schools, to make the teaching profession more accessible to individuals who wish to start a second career, to encourage adults to share their knowledge and experience with children in the classroom, to give school officials the flexibility the officials need to hire whom the officials think can do the job best, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the quality of individuals becoming teachers in elementary and secondary schools, to make the teaching profession more accessible to individuals who wish to start a second career, to encourage adults to share their knowledge and experience with children in the classroom, to give school officials the flexibility the officials need to hire whom the officials think can do the job best, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Alternative Certifi-
3 cation and Licensure of Teachers Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) the measure of a good teacher is how much
7 and how well the teacher’s students learn;

8 (2) the main teacher quality problem in 1998
9 was the lack of subject matter knowledge;

10 (3) knowledgeable and eager individuals of
11 sound character and various professional back-
12 grounds should be encouraged to enter the kinder-
13 garten through grade 12 classrooms as teachers;

14 (4) many talented professionals who have dem-
15 onstrated a high level of subject area competence
16 outside the education profession may wish to pursue
17 careers in education, but have not fulfilled the tradi-
18 tional requirements to be certified or licensed as
19 teachers;

20 (5) States should have maximum flexibility and
21 incentives to create alternative teacher certification
22 and licensure programs in order to recruit well-edu-
23 cated people into the teaching profession; and

24 (6) alternative routes can enable qualified indi-
25 viduals to fulfill State teacher certification or licen-
26 sure requirements and will allow school systems to

1 utilize the expertise of professionals and improve the
 2 pool of qualified individuals available to local edu-
 3 cational agencies as teachers.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to im-
 5 prove the supply of well-qualified elementary school and
 6 secondary school teachers by encouraging and assisting
 7 States to develop and implement programs for alternative
 8 routes to teacher certification or licensure requirements.

9 **SEC. 3. ALLOTMENTS.**

10 (a) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appro-
 12 priated to carry out this Act for each fiscal year, the
 13 Secretary shall allot to each State the lesser of—

14 (A) the amount the State applies for under
 15 section 4; or

16 (B) an amount that bears the same rela-
 17 tion to the amount so appropriated as the total
 18 population of children ages 5 through 17 in the
 19 State bears to the total population of such chil-
 20 dren in all the States (based on the most recent
 21 data available that is satisfactory to the Sec-
 22 retary).

23 (2) REALLOCATION.—If a State does not apply
 24 for the State’s allotment, or the full amount of the
 25 State’s allotment, under paragraph (1), the Sec-

1 retary may reallocate the excess funds to 1 or more
 2 other States that demonstrate, to the satisfaction of
 3 the Secretary, a current need for the funds.

4 (b) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding section 421(b)
 5 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.
 6 1225(b)), funds awarded under this Act shall remain
 7 available for obligation by a recipient for a period of 2
 8 calendar years from the date of the grant.

9 **SEC. 4. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any State desiring to receive an
 11 allotment under this Act shall, through the State edu-
 12 cational agency, submit an application at such time, in
 13 such manner, and containing such information, as the Sec-
 14 retary may reasonably require.

15 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each application shall—

16 (1) describe the programs, projects, and activi-
 17 ties to be undertaken with assistance provided under
 18 this Act; and

19 (2) contain such assurances as the Secretary
 20 considers necessary, including assurances that—

21 (A) assistance provided to the State edu-
 22 cational agency under this Act will be used to
 23 supplement, and not to supplant, any State or
 24 local funds available for the development and
 25 implementation of programs to provide alter-

1 native routes to fulfilling teacher certification or
2 licensure requirements;

3 (B) the State educational agency has, in
4 developing and designing the application, con-
5 sulted with—

6 (i) representatives of local educational
7 agencies, including superintendents and
8 school board members (including rep-
9 resentatives of their professional organiza-
10 tions if appropriate);

11 (ii) elementary school and secondary
12 school teachers, including representatives
13 of their professional organizations;

14 (iii) schools or departments of edu-
15 cation within institutions of higher edu-
16 cation;

17 (iv) parents; and

18 (v) other interested individuals and
19 organizations; and

20 (C) the State educational agency will sub-
21 mit to the Secretary, at such time as the Sec-
22 retary may specify, a final report describing the
23 activities carried out with assistance provided
24 under this Act and the results achieved with re-
25 spect to such activities.

1 (c) GEPA PROVISIONS INAPPLICABLE.—Sections
2 441 and 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (20
3 U.S.C. 1232d and 1232e), except to the extent that such
4 sections relate to fiscal control and fund accounting proce-
5 dures, shall not apply to this Act.

6 **SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS.**

7 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency
9 shall use funds provided under this Act to support
10 programs, projects, or activities that develop and im-
11 plement new, or expand and improve existing, pro-
12 grams that enable individuals to move to a teaching
13 career in elementary or secondary education from
14 another occupation through an alternative route to
15 teacher certification or licensure.

16 (2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—A State edu-
17 cational agency may carry out such programs,
18 projects, or activities directly, through contracts, or
19 through grants to local educational agencies, inter-
20 mediate educational agencies, institutions of higher
21 education, or consortia of such agencies or institu-
22 tions.

23 (b) USES.—Funds received under this Act may be
24 used for—

1 (1) the design, development, implementation,
2 and evaluation of programs that enable qualified
3 professionals who have demonstrated a high level of
4 subject area competence outside the education pro-
5 fession and are interested in entering the education
6 profession to fulfill State teacher certification or li-
7 censure requirements;

8 (2) the establishment of administrative struc-
9 tures necessary for the development and implemen-
10 tation of programs to provide alternative routes to
11 fulfilling State teacher certification or licensure re-
12 quirements;

13 (3) training of staff, including the development
14 of appropriate support programs, such as mentor
15 programs, for teachers entering the school system
16 through alternative routes to teacher certification or
17 licensure;

18 (4) the development of recruitment strategies;

19 (5) the development of reciprocity agreements
20 between or among States for the certification or li-
21 censure of teachers; or

22 (6) other programs, projects, and activities
23 that—

24 (A) are designed to meet the purpose of
25 this Act; and

1 (B) the Secretary determines appropriate.

2 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

3 In this Act:

4 (1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; LOCAL EDU-
 5 CATIONAL AGENCY; SECONDARY SCHOOL; SEC-
 6 RETARY; AND STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The
 7 terms “elementary school”, “local educational agen-
 8 cy”, “secondary school”, “Secretary”, and “State
 9 educational agency” have the meanings given the
 10 terms in section 14101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 11 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

12 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 13 term “institution of higher education” has the
 14 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
 15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 17 the several States of the United States, the District
 18 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
 19 United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American
 20 Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern
 21 Mariana Islands.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and each of the
4 4 succeeding fiscal years.

