

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 40

Entitled “The Careers to Classrooms Act of 2001”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2001

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

Entitled “The Careers to Classrooms Act of 2001”.

- 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. CAREERS TO CLASSROOMS.**
- 4 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
- 5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—
- 6 (1) by redesignating part E as part F;
- 7 (2) by redesignating sections 2401 and 2402 as
- 8 sections 2601 and 2602, respectively; and
- 9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 **“PART G—CAREERS TO CLASSROOMS**2 **“SEC. 2401. CAREERS TO CLASSROOMS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘alternative certification program’ means a State-approved program that—

7 “(A) provides the education and training necessary to enable an individual to be eligible for teacher certification in the State within a reduced period of time, compared to the time typically required to receive such certification; and

13 “(B) relies upon an individual’s experience, expertise, academic qualifications, or other factors in lieu of traditional course work for eligibility to receive a degree in the field of education.

18 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual—

20 “(A) who has submitted an application described in subsection (d) to be a certified teacher through a State-approved alternative certification program in an elementary school or secondary school;

1 “(B) who has an associate, baccalaureate,
2 or advanced degree from an accredited institu-
3 tion of higher education;

4 “(C) who—

5 “(i) has substantial, demonstrable ca-
6 reer experience and competence in mathe-
7 matics, natural science, computer science,
8 engineering, foreign language or another
9 field of expertise determined by the State
10 to be a field for which there is a significant
11 shortage of qualified teachers and teacher
12 applicants in that State; or

13 “(ii) within 5 years of the date on
14 which the individual submits an application
15 described in subparagraph (A)—

16 “(I) has received a baccalaureate
17 or advanced degree from an accredited
18 institution of higher education in a
19 field of expertise described in clause
20 (i); and

21 “(II)(aa) has graduated with at
22 least a 3.0 grade point average (or
23 equivalent average on a different
24 scale) in the major or graduate pro-

16 “(D) in the case of an individual receiving
17 a stipend under this section, who agrees to, in
18 good faith, seek employment and to consider of-
19 fers of employment in the individual’s subject
20 matter of expertise in a high need elementary
21 or secondary school within that State; and

22 “(E) who meets any additional teacher cer-
23 tification or other requirements that may be es-
24 tablished by the State.

1 “(3) HIGH NEED ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY
2 SCHOOL.—The term ‘high need elementary or sec-
3 ondary school’ means a school—

4 “(A)(i) in which the percentage of students
5 from families below the Federal poverty level
6 (as determined by the Secretary) is 20 percent
7 or more; and

8 “(ii) that the State determines has experi-
9 enced a significant period in which teacher va-
10 cancies have remained unfilled due to greater
11 than normal difficulty in recruiting or retaining
12 qualified teachers;

13 “(B) is within the top quartile of schools
14 statewide with regard to the number of unfilled,
15 available teacher positions; or

16 “(C) is located in an area, other than a
17 metropolitan statistical area, that the State de-
18 termines has a high percentage of students
19 from low-income families or is one that has ex-
20 perienced greater than normal difficulty in re-
21 cruiting or retaining teachers.

22 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
23 award, on a competitive basis, grants to States to enable
24 such States to carry out the following activities:

1 “(1) Teacher recruitment, education, training,
2 referral, placement, and retention activities to place
3 eligible individuals as certified teachers in public
4 schools through State-approved alternative certifi-
5 cation programs.

6 “(2) To award stipends (in an amount not to
7 exceed the lesser of \$5,000 per person or an amount
8 equal to the total costs of the types described in
9 paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (8), and (9) of section 472
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 incurred by
11 the eligible individual in obtaining alternative certifi-
12 cation under this section) to eligible individuals
13 who—

14 “(A) are enrolled in a State authorized al-
15 ternative certification program; and

16 “(B) agree to—

17 “(i) seek certification through teacher
18 certification programs in that State; and

19 “(ii) teach in a high need school in
20 that State;

21 with a preference being given to individuals who are
22 deemed financially in need of such assistance by the
23 State.

24 “(3) To provide grants, in a manner prescribed
25 by the State, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per

1 eligible individual, per year, to high need elementary
2 or secondary schools to offset the teacher mentoring,
3 alternative certification, and other direct costs asso-
4 ciated with accepting eligible individuals under this
5 section.

6 “(4) To develop, or to award grants to accred-
7 ited institutions of higher education for the develop-
8 ment of, alternative certification programs, with
9 preference given to programs tailored to eligible indi-
10 viduals under this section.

11 “(5) Other activities determined by the State to
12 be reasonably necessary to carry-out the purposes of
13 this section.

14 “(c) CRITERIA FOR AWARDING OF GRANTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
16 grant under this section a State shall—

17 “(A) submit to the Secretary an applica-
18 tion that contains—

19 “(i) a description of the manner in
20 which the State will carry out activities
21 under this section; and

22 “(ii) a description of the alternative
23 certification program of the State or a de-
24 scription of the manner in which the State

1 is attempting to implement an alternative
2 certification program;

3 “(B) provide assurances to the Secretary
4 that the State will submit to the Secretary, at
5 the end of the grant period, a report on how the
6 activities carried out with funds made available
7 under the grant were utilized, including a de-
8 scription of—

9 “(i) the manner in which the funds
10 were used to increase the number of quali-
11 fied teachers hired in the State;

12 “(ii) the manner in which the funds
13 improved teacher quality;

14 “(iii) the number of teachers hired
15 under the grant;

16 “(iv) the professional experience and
17 field of expertise of each teacher hired
18 under the grant; and

19 “(v) the manner in which the funds
20 were used to meet other objectives of this
21 section or other objectives of the State
22 with regard to teacher hiring, quality, re-
23 tention, and student performance;

24 “(C) provide assurances that amounts re-
25 ceived under the grant will be used to supple-

1 ment and not supplant other Federal, State,
2 and local funds expended to provide services for
3 individuals and entities eligible to receive funds
4 under this section; and

5 “(D) provide assurances to the Secretary
6 that amounts received under the grants will be
7 expended within 3 years of the receipt of such
8 funds and agree to return unused funds to the
9 Secretary.

10 “(2) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall give
11 preference in the awarding of grants under this sec-
12 tion to States that have developed, or that are devel-
13 oping, alternative certification programs that—

14 “(A) rapidly place quality certified teachers
15 into the classroom;

16 “(B) emphasize subject matter content;
17 and

22 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—A grant under this section
23 may be made for a period of up to 3 years, and may
24 not exceed \$10,000,000 per year.

1 “(4) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—To the extent
2 practicable, the Secretary shall award grants under
3 this section to support programs in different geo-
4 graphic regions of the United States.

5 “(d) APPLICATION BY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—To
6 be eligible to participate as an eligible individual under
7 this section, an individual shall submit an application to
8 the State, or to an entity or individual designated by the
9 State to receive such applications. Such application shall
10 include—

11 “(1) a description of the academic, professional,
12 and other qualifications of the individual, including
13 the academic or professional subject matter expertise
14 of the individual;

15 “(2) a description of the subject matter area,
16 and, if applicable, the grade level, in which the indi-
17 vidual desires to teach;

18 “(3)(A) a description of whether the individual
19 is seeking a stipend under this section (if offered by
20 the State); and

21 “(B) if the individual is seeking such a stipend,
22 a description of the willingness of the individual to
23 teach in a high need elementary or secondary school
24 for at least 2 years under this section; and

1 “(4) any other information or documentation
2 that may be required by the State.

3 “(e) STIPENDS.—

4 “(1) COUNTED FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES.—A
5 stipend received by an eligible individual under this
6 section shall be taken into account in determining
7 the eligibility of the individual for Federal student-
8 based financial assistance.

9 “(2) REPAYMENT.—The recipient of a stipend
10 under this section shall repay amounts received
11 under such stipend to the State from which the sti-
12 pend was received if—

13 “(A) the recipient fails to complete the ap-
14 plicable alternative certification program;

15 “(B) the recipient rejects a bona fide offer
16 of employment during the 1-year period begin-
17 ning on the date on which the individual com-
18 pletes the applicable alternative certification
19 program; or

20 “(C) the recipient fails to teach for at least
21 2 years in a public elementary school or sec-
22 ondary school within that State during the 5-
23 year period beginning on the date on which the
24 individual completes the applicable alternative
25 certification program.

1 “(3) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.—A State that
2 receives a grant under this section may establish ad-
3 ditional procedures and rules with respect to the re-
4 imbursement of the State of any stipend funds
5 under paragraph (2), and shall retain such reim-
6 bursed funds to carry out activities under this sec-
7 tion.

8 “(4) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraphs (2) and (3)
9 shall not apply during the period of time in which
10 an eligible individual is—

11 “(A) pursuing a full-time course of study;

12 “(B) serving on active duty as a member
13 of the Armed Forces;

14 “(C) temporarily totally disabled for a pe-
15 riod of time not to exceed 3 years;

16 “(D) not able to secure employment for a
17 period of not more than 12 months by reason
18 of the care required by a spouse who is dis-
19 abled; or

20 “(E) otherwise exempted from the require-
21 ments of such paragraphs as may be provided
22 by the Secretary.

23 “(f) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—The Secretary shall dis-
24 seminate and otherwise make available information con-
25 cerning the program under this section, including—

1 “(1) through the posting of a website on the
2 Internet to enable interested persons to easily find
3 information and application material for participa-
4 tion in activities under this section, that contains a
5 nationwide, publicly searchable data bank of all
6 State programs and all available public elementary
7 and secondary teaching positions the Secretary is
8 able to practicably ascertain, and a means by which
9 individuals may apply to, or inquire of, multiple
10 States’ alternative certification programs under this
11 section;

12 “(2) providing information to every State about
13 the program under this section, including the cri-
14 teria for State and individual eligibility; and

15 “(3) conducting other activities, either directly
16 or through contract with other appropriate entities,
17 to broaden awareness and participation in the pro-
18 gram under this section.

19 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
20 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
21 to be appropriated \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2002, and
22 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
23 2003 through 2007.”.

