

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education;
3 creating the minority teacher education
4 scholars program; providing for enrollment in
5 the program; authorizing scholarships to
6 certain students; providing for repayment of
7 scholarships; providing exceptions; providing
8 an effective date.

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10 WHEREAS, the number of public school students who are
11 African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and
12 Native American continues to increase, while the number of
13 public school teachers of those races is decreasing rapidly,
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a Caucasian student is three times as likely
16 to have a teacher of the same race as is an Hispanic American
17 student or an African American student, and

18 WHEREAS, African American male students number more
19 than 12 percent of the total enrollment in grades kindergarten
20 through 12, and

21 WHEREAS, African American men enrolled in State
22 University System colleges of education number less than 3
23 percent of the future teachers, and

24 WHEREAS, the total number of Hispanic Americans and
25 African Americans who enter the teaching profession is
26 insufficient by far to maintain their current representation
27 level, even though they are currently underrepresented by an
28 alarming proportion, NOW, THEREFORE,

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31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

1 Section 1. There is created the minority teacher
2 education scholars program, which is a collaborative
3 performance-based scholarship program for African American,
4 Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American
5 students. The participants in the program include Florida's
6 public community colleges and its public and private
7 universities that have teacher education programs.

8 (1) The minority teacher education scholars program
9 shall provide an annual scholarship of \$4,000 for each
10 approved minority teacher education scholar who is enrolled in
11 one of Florida's public or private universities in the junior
12 year and is admitted into a teacher education program.

13 (2) The total amount appropriated annually for new
14 scholarships in the program must be divided by \$4,000.

15 (3) A student may receive a scholarship from the
16 program for 3 consecutive years if the student remains
17 enrolled full-time in the program and makes satisfactory
18 progress toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in
19 education.

20 (4) If a minority teacher education scholar graduates
21 and is employed as a teacher by a Florida district school
22 board, the scholar is not required to repay the scholarship
23 amount so long as the scholar teaches in a Florida public
24 school. A scholar may repay the entire scholarship amount by
25 remaining employed as a Florida public school teacher for 1
26 year for each year he or she received the scholarship.

27 (5) If a minority teacher education scholar does not
28 graduate within 3 years, or if the scholar graduates but does
29 not teach in a Florida public school, the scholar must repay
30 the total amount awarded, plus annual interest of 8 percent.

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1 (a) Interest begins accruing the first day of the 13th
2 month after the month in which the recipient completes an
3 approved teacher education program or after the month in which
4 enrollment as a full-time student is terminated. Interest does
5 not accrue during any period of deferment or eligible teaching
6 service.

7 (b) The repayment period begins the first day of the
8 13th month after the month in which the recipient completes an
9 approved teacher education program or after the month in which
10 enrollment as a full-time student is terminated.

11 (c) The terms and conditions of the scholarship
12 repayment must be contained in a promissory note and a
13 repayment schedule. The loan must be paid within 10 years
14 after the date of graduation or termination of full-time
15 enrollment, including any periods of deferment. A shorter
16 repayment period may be granted. The minimum monthly repayment
17 is \$50 or the unpaid balance, unless otherwise approved,
18 except that the monthly payment may not be less than the
19 accruing interest. The recipient may prepay any part of the
20 scholarship without penalty.

21 (d) The holder of the promissory note may grant a
22 deferment of repayment for a recipient who is a full-time
23 student, who is unable to secure a teaching position that
24 would qualify as repayment, who becomes disabled, or who
25 experiences other hardships. Such a deferment may be granted
26 for a total of 24 months.

27 (e) If a student defaults on the scholarship, the
28 entire unpaid balance, including interest accrued, becomes due
29 and payable at the option of the holder of the promissory
30 note, or when the recipient is no longer able to pay or no
31 longer intends to pay. The recipient is responsible for paying

1 all reasonable attorney's fees and other costs and charges
2 necessary for administration of the collection process.

3 Section 2. The Office of Student Financial Assistance
4 of the Department of Education shall administer and manage the
5 minority teacher education scholars program.

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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