

By Senator Geller

29-744-99

See HB

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; providing
3 legislative intent; amending s. 24.121, F.S.;
4 providing for a portion of lottery revenues to
5 be used for the Teacher Learning Enhancement
6 and Assistance Program; creating s. 236.1222,
7 F.S.; creating the Teacher Learning Enhancement
8 and Assistance Program; providing definitions;
9 providing for appropriations and deposit of
10 funds; providing for use of funds; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to
16 restore the public faith in the use of lottery funds as
17 enhancements to public education. To that end, the Legislature
18 has dedicated funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust
19 Fund to specific educational programs. The Teacher Learning
20 Enhancement and Assistance Program will further this goal by
21 dedicating a portion of the lottery dollars directly to the
22 classrooms to be used by the teachers to purchase learning
23 enhancements for their students. It is further the intent of
24 the Legislature to replace lottery funds that will be used for
25 this program with a proportionate increase in general revenue
26 to the Florida Education Finance Program.

27 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
28 24.121, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended, present
29 paragraph (f) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph
30 (g), and a new paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to
31 read:

1 24.121 Allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds
2 for public education.--

3 (5)

4 (b) Except as provided in paragraphs (c), (d), ~~and~~
5 (e), and (f), the Legislature shall equitably apportion moneys
6 in the trust fund among public schools, community colleges,
7 and universities.

8 (f) A portion of such net revenues shall be
9 distributed annually to each public school district for the
10 Teacher Learning Enhancement and Assistance Program pursuant
11 to s. 236.1222.

12 Section 3. Section 236.1222, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 236.1222 Teacher Learning Enhancement and Assistance
15 Program.--

16 (1) The Teacher Learning Enhancement and Assistance
17 Program shall provide funds to teachers and instructional
18 personnel designated by this section to assist teaching and
19 learning. An amount estimated to provide \$250 for each
20 eligible classroom teacher and instructional specialist shall
21 be appropriated annually by the Legislature to assist teaching
22 and learning in Florida's public schools unless otherwise
23 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

24 (2) For purposes of this section, the term:

25 (a) "Eligible classroom teacher" means a certified
26 teacher whose responsibility is classroom instruction in
27 prekindergarten through grade 12.

28 (b) "Eligible instructional specialist" means a
29 certified school district employee who provides guidance
30 services, job training or vocational services, media services,
31 or other curriculum-related services.

1 (3) Each eligible classroom teacher and instructional
2 specialist shall be funded at the maximum level appropriated
3 if he or she is a full-time school district employee. A
4 classroom teacher or instructional specialist employed by the
5 district at least 50 percent, but less than 100 percent, of
6 the school year shall be funded at 50 percent of the annual
7 appropriation for each full-time employee.

8 (4) The Teacher Learning Enhancement and Assistance
9 Program funds shall be deposited into each school's internal
10 account and made available to reimburse expenses of the
11 eligible classroom teacher or eligible instructional
12 specialist. The funds expended under this section are not
13 subject to state or local competitive bidding requirements.

14 (5) The goods purchased with these funds are to be
15 considered classroom supplies and are to be maintained and
16 disposed of in the same manner as other classroom supplies.

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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20 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

21 Provides legislative intent. Creates the Teacher Learning
22 Enhancement and Assistance Program to provide funds to
23 classroom teachers and instructional specialists to
24 assist teaching and learning. Provides that a portion of
25 lottery revenues shall be distributed annually to each
26 school district for implementation of the program.