

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and  
Representatives Henriquez, C. Smith, Waters, Rojas and J.  
Miller

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to teacher preparation;  
3           requiring the University of South Florida to  
4           develop and establish a teacher preparation  
5           program; providing requirements regarding  
6           scholarships; requiring student participants to  
7           fulfill a teaching requirement; requiring  
8           repayment of funds received through the program  
9           under certain circumstances; limiting  
10          implementation of the program to the amount  
11          funded in the General Appropriations Act;  
12          providing an effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. By July 1, 2001, the University of South  
17 Florida shall develop and establish at its Tampa campus a  
18 rigorous teacher preparation program for highly talented  
19 students. The program shall be conducted in conformance with  
20 the following requirements:

21                   (1) When fully operational, the program must serve 40  
22 students per year; 20 of whom must be a cohort of students in  
23 their junior year, and 20 of whom must be a cohort of students  
24 in their senior year.

25                   (2) The program, which shall build upon the documented  
26 success of the SunCoast Area Teacher Training Program, must  
27 provide the following services to prepare prospective  
28 teachers:

29                           (a) Specific preparation for teaching in urban  
30 schools.

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1           (b) Training in research-proven strategies regarding  
2 effective communication skills.

3           (c) Training in classroom management techniques and  
4 content-based instruction that impact student achievement.

5           (d) Internship stipends of \$3,000 per student.

6           (e) Mentors who are selected and trained.

7           (f) Collaborative coaching provided by both the school  
8 district and the university during the first year of  
9 employment.

10           (g) A process of both formative and summative  
11 evaluation, on the results of which services provided by the  
12 program will be based.

13           (3) Participants must be recruited from among students  
14 receiving a Florida Academic Scholarship or a Florida Merit  
15 Scholarship.

16           (4) Participants in the program shall, upon  
17 graduation, be required to teach at least 3 years in a Florida  
18 public school within the University of South Florida service  
19 area that has been designated as performance grade category  
20 "D" or "F," according to s. 229.57, Florida Statutes. If the  
21 school at which the participant is employed is removed from  
22 the list of schools designated as performance grade category  
23 "D" or "F," the participant may choose either to remain at  
24 that school, without penalty, or transfer to another  
25 low-performing school. Participants who fail to fulfill the  
26 teaching requirement under this subsection shall be required  
27 to repay the University of South Florida a prorated portion of  
28 the amount of annual assistance received through the program,  
29 excluding Florida Academic Scholarship and Florida Merit  
30 Scholarship funds, for each year of the unfulfilled teaching  
31 commitment.

1           (5) This program shall be implemented to the extent  
2 specifically funded in the General Appropriations Act.  
3           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.  
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