

By Senator Dyer

14-727-01

See HB

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student financial aid;
3 creating s. 240.40645, F.S.; establishing the
4 Instructional Paraprofessional Scholarship
5 Program to provide tuition reimbursements for
6 eligible program participants; providing
7 limitations on the amount, number of semester
8 hours or equivalent quarter hours, and award of
9 such reimbursements; providing eligibility
10 requirements; limiting implementation to the
11 amount funded in the General Appropriations
12 Act; requiring funds appropriated to be
13 deposited in the State Student Financial
14 Assistance Trust Fund; providing an effective
15 date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 240.40645, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 240.40645 Instructional Paraprofessional Scholarship
22 Program.--

23 (1) There is hereby created the Instructional
24 Paraprofessional Scholarship Program for the purpose of
25 encouraging instructional paraprofessionals to become
26 certified to teach in subject areas of critical state or local
27 need.

28 (2) To the extent that funding is available, eligible
29 program participants shall receive a tuition reimbursement for
30 up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in quarter hours,
31 per semester, at a rate established annually in the General

1 Appropriations Act. If funds appropriated are not adequate to
2 provide the maximum allowable reimbursement to each eligible
3 applicant, awards shall be reduced by a prorated amount. All
4 tuition reimbursements shall be contingent on passing an
5 approved course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its equivalent.

6 (3) To be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement
7 pursuant to this act, an instructional paraprofessional, as
8 defined by s. 228.041(9)(e), must:

9 (a) Have been employed by a district school board or a
10 charter school established pursuant to s. 228.056 as an
11 instructional paraprofessional for at least 1 year;

12 (b) Be enrolled in a program of study leading to
13 certification in an area of critical teacher shortage, as
14 identified pursuant to s. 231.62.

15 (4) This section shall be implemented only to the
16 extent specifically funded by the Legislature in the General
17 Appropriations Act. Such funds shall be deposited in the State
18 Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund.

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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22 HOUSE SUMMARY

23
24 Establishes the Instructional Paraprofessional
25 Scholarship Program to provide tuition reimbursements for
26 eligible program participants. Provides limitations on
27 the amount, number of semester hours or equivalent
28 quarter hours, and award of such reimbursements. Provides
29 eligibility requirements. Limits implementation to the
30 amount funded in the General Appropriations Act. Requires
31 funds appropriated to be deposited in the State Student
Financial Assistance Trust Fund.