

By Senator Klein

28-1119-01

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to teacher recruitment;
3 creating the Transition to Teaching Program;
4 encouraging participation by postsecondary
5 education institutions and organizations that
6 represent eligible employees or employ eligible
7 applicants; providing for grant proposals and
8 applications; requiring an evaluation;
9 authorizing certain activities and placing
10 limitations on expenditures; providing for
11 repayment of certain stipends; providing an
12 effective date.

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14 WHEREAS, Florida's public school enrollment has
15 increased by over 200,000 students in the past 5 years, and
16 WHEREAS, Florida's supply of teachers for these
17 students is inadequate, with over 15,000 vacancies expected in
18 2001-2002, and

19 WHEREAS, the successful Troops to Teachers Program has
20 recruited over 3,000 retired service men and women into a
21 teaching career, over 200 in Florida, and

22 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2000, Representative Jim Davis
23 and Senator Bob Graham secured a federal appropriation of \$34
24 million for a program, modeled after Troops to Teachers, for
25 career-changing professionals to enter the teaching field,
26 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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30 Section 1. Transition to Teaching Program; Legislative
31 intent.--The Transition to Teaching Program is created to

1 encourage and assist mid-career professionals who want to
2 become teachers. It is intended to enable professional
3 associations, business and trade groups, unions, school
4 districts, postsecondary education institutions, community
5 organizations, and other organizations to assist their
6 retiring employees who want to become teachers.

7 Section 2. Grants; eligible applicants.--

8 (1) A community college, state university, or
9 independent college or university is eligible for a grant to
10 implement the Transition to Teaching Program by working with
11 firms that employ professionals or represent employees. A
12 consortium of organizations is eligible, but it must include a
13 postsecondary education institution. The Commissioner of
14 Education shall design the process for receiving and
15 evaluating grant proposals in accordance with state and
16 federal appropriations guidelines. Grants may be awarded only
17 to the extent that funding is provided.

18 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall request
19 proposals from eligible applicants to participate in the
20 program. Each application must:

21 (a) Describe the target group of career-changing
22 professionals upon which the applicant will focus in carrying
23 out its program, including a description of the
24 characteristics of the target group that shows how the
25 knowledge and experience of its members are likely to improve
26 their ability to become effective teachers.

27 (b) Describe how the applicant will identify and
28 recruit program participants.

29 (c) Describe how the applicant will ensure that
30 program participants are placed and teach in eligible school
31 districts in this state.

1 (d) Describe the teacher support services that program
2 participants will receive throughout at least their first year
3 of teaching.

4 (e) Describe how the applicant will collaborate with
5 other institutions, agencies, or organizations to recruit,
6 train, place, and support program participants, including
7 evidence of the commitment of those institutions, agencies, or
8 organizations to the applicant's program.

9 (3) The Commissioner of Education must require an
10 evaluation process to measure the progress and effectiveness
11 of the program. This evaluation must include:

12 (a) The program's goals and objectives.

13 (b) The performance indicators that the applicant will
14 use to measure the program's progress.

15 (c) The outcome measures that will be used to
16 determine the program's effectiveness.

17 (d) An assurance that the applicant will provide the
18 commissioner with information the commissioner finds necessary
19 to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs.

20 Section 3. Program funds; authorized expenditures.--An
21 applicant shall estimate the funds required for the proposed
22 program. Funds may be used for:

23 (1) Recruiting program participants, including
24 informing them of opportunities under the program and putting
25 them in contact with other institutions, agencies, or
26 organizations that will train, place, and support them in the
27 teaching profession.

28 (2) Training stipends and other financial incentives
29 for program participants, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000
30 per participant.

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1 (3) Assisting higher education institutions or other
2 providers of teacher training to tailor their training to meet
3 the particular needs of professionals who are changing their
4 careers to teaching.

5 (4) Placement activities, including identifying
6 eligible local education agencies that need the skills and
7 characteristics of the newly trained program participants and
8 assisting those participants to obtain employment in those
9 school districts.

10 (5) Post-placement support activities for program
11 participants.

12 Section 4. Eligible participants; requirements for
13 grant repayment.--

14 (1) Each participant who receives a grant from the
15 program to pursue a teacher-preparation program must agree to
16 teach in an eligible school district in this state for at
17 least 3 years after certification. To be eligible, a school
18 district must meet the requirements established in regulations
19 that implement the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 2000.

20 (2) The commissioner shall establish conditions under
21 which a participant must repay all or a portion of the
22 training stipend if the participant fails to complete his or
23 her service obligation.

24 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates the Transition to Teaching Program. Encourages participation by postsecondary education institutions and organizations that represent eligible employees or employ eligible applicants. Provides for grant proposals and applications. Requires an evaluation. Authorizes certain activities and places limitations on expenditures. Provides for the repayment of certain stipends awarded to participants who do not complete their obligations under the program.