

By the Committee on Appropriations and Senator Klein

309-1812-01

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 federal  
10 grant to implement the Transition to Teaching Program by  
11 working with firms that employ professionals or represent  
12 employees. A consortium of organizations is eligible, but it  
13 must include a postsecondary education institution. The  
14 Commissioner of Education shall design the process for  
15 receiving and evaluating grant proposals in accordance with  
16 state and federal appropriations guidelines. Grants may be  
17 awarded only 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 implementation; authorized  
21 expenditures.--

22           (1) An applicant shall estimate the funds required for  
23 the proposed program. All funds provided for a program must be  
24 used to provide training stipends and other financial  
25 incentives for program participants, in an amount not to  
26 exceed \$5,000 per participant.

27           (2) Eligible applicants are encouraged to implement  
28 the program using the following components:

29           (a) Recruiting program participants, including  
30 informing them of opportunities under the program and putting  
31 them in contact with other institutions, agencies, or

1 organizations that will train, place, and support them in the  
2 teaching profession.

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

7 (c) Placement activities, including identifying  
8 eligible local education agencies with a need for the skills  
9 and characteristics of the newly trained program participants  
10 and assisting those participants to obtain employment in those  
11 school districts.

12 (d) Post-placement support activities for program  
13 participants.

14 Section 4. Eligible participants; requirements for  
15 grant repayment.--

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

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

26 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.  
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 1684

Specifies the program is funded from federal grants.  
Limits expenditures from grants to stipends for the recipients.