

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to teacher recruitment;
3 creating the Transition to Teaching Program;
4 providing for grant proposals and applications;
5 requiring an evaluation; authorizing certain
6 activities and placing limitations on
7 expenditures; providing for repayment of
8 certain stipends; providing an effective date.
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12 Section 1. Transition to Teaching Program; Legislative
13 intent.--The Transition to Teaching Program is created to
14 encourage and assist mid-career professionals who want to
15 become teachers.

16 Section 2. Grants; eligible applicants.--

17 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall design the
18 process for receiving and evaluating grant proposals in
19 accordance with state and federal appropriations guidelines.
20 Grants may be awarded only to the extent that funding is
21 provided.

22 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall request
23 proposals from eligible applicants to participate in the
24 program. Each application must:

25 (a) Describe the target group of career-changing
26 professionals upon which the applicant will focus in carrying
27 out its program, including a description of the
28 characteristics of the target group that shows how the
29 knowledge and experience of its members are likely to improve
30 their ability to become effective teachers.
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1 (b) Describe how the applicant will identify and
2 recruit program participants.

3 (c) Describe how the applicant will ensure that
4 program participants are placed and teach in eligible school
5 districts in this state.

6 (d) Describe the teacher support services that program
7 participants will receive throughout at least their first year
8 of teaching.

9 (e) Describe how the applicant will collaborate with
10 other institutions, agencies, or organizations to recruit,
11 train, place, and support program participants, including
12 evidence of the commitment of those institutions, agencies, or
13 organizations to the applicant's program.

14 (3) The Commissioner of Education must require an
15 evaluation process to measure the progress and effectiveness
16 of the program. This evaluation must include:

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

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

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

22 (d) An assurance that the applicant will provide the
23 commissioner with information the commissioner finds necessary
24 to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs.

25 Section 3. Program implementation; authorized
26 expenditures.--

27 (1) An applicant shall estimate the funds required for
28 the proposed program. All funds provided for a program must be
29 used as authorized in federal guidelines.

30 (2) Eligible applicants are encouraged to implement
31 the program using the following components:

1 (a) Recruiting program participants, including
2 informing them of opportunities under the program and putting
3 them in contact with other institutions, agencies, or
4 organizations that will train, place, and support them in the
5 teaching profession.

6 (b) Assisting providers of teacher training to tailor
7 their training to meet the particular needs of professionals
8 who are changing their careers to teaching.

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

14 (d) Post-placement support activities for program
15 participants.

16 Section 4. Eligible participants; requirements for
17 grant repayment.--

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

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

28 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
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