

By Representative Henriquez

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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21 HOUSE SUMMARY

22  
23 Establishes the Instructional Paraprofessional  
24 Scholarship Program to provide tuition reimbursements for  
25 eligible program participants. Provides limitations on  
26 the amount, number of semester hours or equivalent  
27 quarter hours, and award of such reimbursements. Provides  
28 eligibility requirements. Limits implementation to the  
29 amount funded in the General Appropriations Act. Requires  
30 funds appropriated to be deposited in the State Student  
31 Financial Assistance Trust Fund.