

By the Committee on Education Innovation and
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 Tuition
5 Reimbursement Program to provide tuition
6 reimbursements for eligible program
7 participants; providing limitations on the
8 amount, number of semester hours or equivalent
9 quarter hours, and award of such
10 reimbursements; providing eligibility
11 requirements; limiting implementation to the
12 amount funded in the General Appropriations
13 Act; requiring funds appropriated to be
14 deposited in the State Student Financial
15 Assistance Trust Fund; providing an effective
16 date.

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

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

22 240.40645 Instructional Paraprofessional Tuition
23 Reimbursement Program.--

24 (1) There is hereby created the Instructional
25 Paraprofessional Tuition Reimbursement Program to be
26 administered by the Department of Education for the purpose of
27 encouraging instructional paraprofessionals to become
28 certified to teach in subject areas of critical state or local
29 need.

30 (2) To the extent that funding is available, eligible
31 program participants shall receive a tuition reimbursement for

1 up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in quarter hours,
2 per semester, at a rate established annually in the General
3 Appropriations Act. If funds appropriated are not adequate to
4 provide the maximum allowable reimbursement to each eligible
5 applicant, awards shall be reduced by a prorated amount. All
6 tuition reimbursements shall be contingent on passing an
7 approved course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its equivalent.

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

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

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

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

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31