

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1053 Teacher Education

SPONSOR(S): Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Castor Dentel and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1456

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Thomas	Sherry
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program (scholarship program) is a collaborative performance-based scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native American students. The scholarship program provides an annual scholarship in an amount that must be prorated based on available appropriation and may not exceed \$4,000 for each recipient who is enrolled in one of Florida's public or private universities or Florida College System institutions in their junior year and is admitted into a teacher education program.

The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., (corporation) is a not-for-profit statutory corporation housed within the College of Education at the University of Florida that administers and manages the scholarship program.

The bill:

- Revises the eligibility requirements for the scholarship program.
- Allows students to use the scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with a major in education.
- Removes the requirement that administrative costs for the support of the Board of Directors and the corporation not exceed the 5 percent of appropriated funds for the scholarship program.
- Provides that the administrative costs for the scholarship program may not exceed \$100,000 of appropriated funds.
- Provides that an annual expenditure of up to \$100,000 of appropriated funds may be used for a training program.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The bill provides an effective date of upon becoming law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program

Present Situation

The Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program (scholarship program) is a collaborative performance-based scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native American students. The scholarship program provides an annual scholarship in an amount that must be prorated based on available appropriation and may not exceed \$4,000 for each recipient who is enrolled in one of Florida's public or private universities or Florida College System (FCS) institutions in their junior year and is admitted into a teacher education program.¹

A student may receive a scholarship for 3 consecutive years, if the student remains enrolled full-time in the scholarship program and makes satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in education.

An eligible student is required to:²

- Meet Florida residency requirements;
- Have earned 60 credit hours or an Associate of Arts degree;
- Have not earned a baccalaureate degree in education;
- Be classified as a junior and have not exceeded 18 hours of upper-division education credit at the time of application;
- Have and maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average;
- Be a member of one of the following ethnic groups: African-American/Black, Hispanic-Latina American, Asian-American/Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaskan native; and
- Be newly admitted into a teacher education program at any of the scholarship program's participating institutions.

Upon graduation, a recipient is required to teach one year in a Florida public school for each year the scholarship was received. If a recipient does not graduate within the 2-3 years of receiving scholarship funding, or if a recipient does not teach in a Florida public school, the recipient will be required to repay the total amount of the scholarship received at an annual interest rate of eight percent, paid within 10 years.³

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill revises the eligibility requirements for the scholarship program by requiring that a student has earned no more than 18 hours of upper-division education credit at the time of applying and removes the junior year classification requirement. The bill also allows a student to use the scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with a major in education provided that the student has not earned more than 18 hours of upper-division education credit as part of his or her baccalaureate degree.

Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.

¹ s. 1009.60(1), F.S.

² Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Annual Report to the Commissioner 2012-13(2013)*, available at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/pdf/annualreportcurrent.pdf>.

³ Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *2013 - 2014 Minority Teacher Education Scholarship Program/Florida Fund for Minority Teacher, Inc. Are You eligible?*

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/FFMT.pdf>.

Present Situation

The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., (corporation) is a not-for-profit statutory corporation housed within the College of Education at the University of Florida that administers and manages the scholarship program.⁴

The corporation is required to report to the Department of Education (DOE), the eligible students who received a scholarship each academic term, the annual balance of the corporation's assets and cash reserves, and any other information requested by DOE. By June 30th of each fiscal year, the corporation must remit to DOE any appropriated funds that were not distributed for scholarship, less the 5 percent for administration, which includes administration of the required training program. Of the appropriated amount of \$885,468 for the 2012 - 2013 fiscal year, \$44,273 was expended as the allowable 5% administrative fee. The total disbursement amount was less than the annual appropriations by \$31,195, which was refunded by the corporation, to DOE.⁵

The Board of Directors (board) must administer the corporation. The Governor must appoint to the board at least 15 but not more than 25 members. At least 4 members must be employed by FCS institutions and at least 11 members must be employed by public and private postsecondary institutions that operate colleges of education. At least one member must be a financial aid officer employed by a postsecondary education institution operating in Florida. Administrative costs for support of the board and the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers may not exceed 5 percent of funds allocated for the scholarship program.

The board must:

- Hold meetings;
- Select a chairperson;
- Make rules for its own government;
- Appoint an executive director to serve at its pleasure;
- Maintain a record of its proceedings;
- Delegate to the chairperson the responsibility for signing final orders;
- Carry out the training program as required for the scholarship program. No more than 5 percent of funds appropriated and up to \$100,000 from other available funds for scholarship program may be expended annually for administration, including administration of the required training program.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill removes the requirement that administrative costs for the support of the board and the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers not exceed the 5 percent of appropriated funds for the scholarship program. The bill provides that the administrative costs may not exceed \$100,000 of the appropriated funds.

The bill also provides that an annual expenditure of up to \$100,000 of appropriated funds may be used for a training program as required for the scholarship program.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1009.60, F.S., revising eligibility criteria for receipt of a minority teacher education scholarship.

⁴ s. 1009.605(1), F.S.

⁵ Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Florida Fund for Minority Teachers 2012- 2013, End of Year Report* https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/EOY_Reports/2012-13/FFMT_2012_2013.pdf.

Section 2. Amends s. 1009.605, F.S., revising funds for administration and the training program carried out by the board of directors of the Florida Fund for Minority Teacher, Inc.

Section 3. Provides an effective date of upon becoming a law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require municipalities or counties to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 25, 2014, the Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee reported HB 1053 favorably as a committee substitute. There was one amendment to the bill that removed proposed changes to requirements for receiving a temporary teacher certificate.

This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as passed by the Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee.