

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 1053 Teacher Education

SPONSOR(S): Education Committee, 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	12 Y, 0 N	Butler	Heflin
3) Education Committee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	Thomas	Mizereck

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 appropriations; the award may not exceed \$4,000. Awards are available to approved minority teacher education scholars who are enrolled in a Florida public or private postsecondary institution in their junior year and who are 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 by removing a requirement that students enrolled in an approved minority teacher education program must be in their junior year to be eligible for the award, and requires that the student may not have earned more than 18 credit hours of upper-division education courses.
- 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 five percent of appropriated funds for the scholarship program.
- Provides that the administrative costs for the scholarship program may not exceed \$100,000.
- Provides that an annual expenditure of up to \$100,000 of appropriated funds and other available funds may be used for a required training program.
- Requires the corporation to provide an annual report on specific scholarship information to the Legislature.

The bill does not require an additional appropriation; however, by changing current caps for administrative and training program expenditures, scholarship awards to students may be affected. SEE FISCAL COMMENTS.

The bill is effective 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

To assist participating institutions in the recruitment and retention of minority teacher scholars, the administrators of the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., are required to implement a training program.² The mandatory training has been accomplished in the past by sponsoring a state-wide annual symposium. Symposium participants consist of current scholars and potential scholarship recipients. The workshops and training are designed to provide professional development sessions for current scholars, and exploratory sessions designed to inform and attract potential scholars. According to staff representing the program, the symposium has not been held in the past three years due to budgetary constraints.³

A student may receive a scholarship for three 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:⁴

- 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-Latino, 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 two to three years of receiving scholarship funding, or if a recipient does not teach in a Florida public school, the recipient will be

¹ s. 1009.60(1), F.S.

² S. 1009.60(2), F.S.

³ Email: Cheryl Williams, College Liaison for the University of Florida, College of Education, March 28, 2014. Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., is the not-for-profit corporation housed at the UF, College of Education required to administer and manage the program, pursuant to s. 1009.605(1), F.S.

⁴ Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Annual Report to the Commissioner 2012-13 (2013)*, available at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/StateProgramLinks.htm>

required to repay the total amount of the scholarship received at an annual interest rate of eight percent, paid within ten years.⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill revises the eligibility requirements for the scholarship program by removing a requirement that students enrolled in an approved minority teacher education program must be in their junior year to be eligible for the award, and requires that the student may not have earned more than 18 credit hours of upper-division education courses. The bill also allows a student to use the scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with a major in education.

Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.

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.⁶

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 five percent for administration, which includes administration of the required training program.

Of the appropriated amount of \$885,468 for the 2012-2013 fiscal year,⁷ \$44,273 was expended as the allowable five percent for administrative costs. Scholarships totaling \$810,000 were disbursed to 278 students at an average award amount of \$2914.⁸ The remaining \$31,195 was refunded to DOE by the corporation.⁹

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 four 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 five 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; and
- Carry out a training program as required for the scholarship program. No more than five percent of funds appropriated and up to \$100,000 from other available funds for scholarship

⁵ Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *2013-14 Minority Teacher Education Scholarship Program/Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc. Are You Eligible: FFMT.pdf* available at: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/ProgramsOffered.htm>

⁶ s. 1009.605(1), F.S.

⁷ Chapter 2012-118, Laws of Florida - Fiscal Year 2012-2013 General Appropriations Act, Specific Appropriation 58

⁸ Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Florida Fund for Minority Teachers 2012- 2013, End of Year Report* available at https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/EOY_Reports.asp?year=2012

⁹ Email verification with staff from the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 28, 2014

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 five percent of appropriated funds for the scholarship program. The bill provides that the administrative costs may not exceed \$100,000.

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

The bill requires the corporation to provide to the Legislature a comparative history of the following information for each fiscal year, beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year: the amount of funds appropriated, the number of scholarships awarded; the number of scholarship recipients currently fulfilling their Florida teaching commitment, the number of scholarship recipients who have completed their Florida teaching commitment, the number of scholarship recipients who have defaulted on the scholarship, the balance of the unpaid scholarship funds, and the total amount of scholarship funds that have been repaid.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

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

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:

The bill does not require an additional appropriation; however, by removing current caps for administrative and training program expenditures, scholarship awards to students may be affected.

This bill provides \$200,000 in spending authority that the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., may use for administrative and training program costs. Currently, the corporation is capped at five percent of appropriations, which equals \$44,273, and up to \$100,000 from other available funds. An appropriation of \$885,468 is currently proposed in the House General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. By allowing \$200,000 to be used for administrative and training costs, \$685,468 would be available for scholarships. Assuming the same number of scholarship awards would be distributed as in 2012-2013, 278 students would receive an average award of \$2,466. In 2012-2013, the average scholarship award for the 278 students was \$2,914.

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.

On April 10, 2014, the Education Committee reported CS/HB 1053 favorably as a committee substitute. There was one amendment to the bill that required the corporation to provide to the Legislature a comparative history of the following information for each fiscal year, beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year: the amount of funds appropriated, the number of scholarships awarded; the number of scholarship recipients currently fulfilling their Florida teaching commitment, the number of scholarship recipients who have completed their Florida teaching commitment, the number of scholarship recipients who have defaulted on the scholarship, the balance of the unpaid scholarship funds, and the total amount of scholarship funds that have been repaid.

This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as passed by the Education Committee.