

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Fresen offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between lines 59 and 60, insert:

5 Section 3. Section 1012.731, Florida Statutes, is created
6 to read:

7 1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher
8 Scholarship Program.-

9 (1) The Legislature recognizes that, second only to
10 parents, teachers play the most critical role within schools in
11 preparing students to achieve a high level of academic
12 performance. The Legislature further recognizes that research
13 has linked student outcomes to a teacher's own academic
14 achievement. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to

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15 designate teachers who have achieved high academic standards
16 during their own education as Florida's best and brightest
17 teacher scholars.

18 (2) There is created the Florida Best and Brightest
19 Teacher Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department
20 of Education. Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, the
21 scholarship program shall provide categorical funding for
22 scholarships to be awarded to teachers who have demonstrated a
23 high level of academic achievement.

24 (3) (a) To be eligible for a scholarship, a teacher:

25 1. Must have scored at or above the 80th percentile on
26 either the SAT or the ACT based upon the percentile ranks in
27 effect when the teacher took the assessment and have been
28 evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34; or

29 2. If the teacher is a first-year teacher who has not been
30 evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34, must have scored at or above
31 the 80th percentile on either the SAT or the ACT based upon the
32 percentile ranks in effect when the teacher took the assessment.

33 (b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an
34 eligible teacher must submit to the school district, no later
35 than October 1, an official record of his or her SAT or ACT
36 score demonstrating that the teacher scored at or above the 80th
37 percentile based upon the percentile ranks in effect when the
38 teacher took the assessment. Once a teacher is deemed eligible
39 by the school district, the teacher shall remain eligible as
40 long as he or she is employed by the school district and

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41 maintains or, if the teacher is a first-year teacher, earns the
42 evaluation designation of highly effective pursuant to s.
43 1012.34.

44 (4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall
45 submit to the department the number of eligible teachers who
46 qualify for the scholarship.

47 (5) Annually, by February 1, the department shall disburse
48 scholarship funds, in an amount prescribed annually by the
49 Legislature in the General Appropriations Act, to each school
50 district for each eligible teacher to receive a scholarship. If
51 the number of eligible teachers exceeds the total appropriation
52 authorized in the General Appropriation Act, the department
53 shall prorate the per teacher scholarship amount.

54 (6) Annually, by April 1, each school district shall
55 provide payment of the scholarship to each eligible teacher.

56 (7) For purposes of this section, the term "school
57 district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
58 and charter school governing boards.

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60

61 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

62 Remove line 8 and insert:
63 experience; creating s. 1012.731, F.S.; providing
64 legislative intent; establishing the Florida Best and
65 Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program; providing
66 eligibility criteria; requiring a school district to

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67 | annually submit the number of eligible teachers to the
68 | department; providing for funding and the disbursement
69 | of funds; defining the term "school district" for
70 | purposes of specified provisions; amending s. 1012.75,
71 | F.S.; requiring the

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