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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Senator Bullard moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 924 - 980

and insert:

(1) The Legislature recognizes that, second only to parents, instructional personnel play the most critical role within schools in preparing students to achieve a high level of academic performance. The Legislature further recognizes that research has linked student outcomes to an instructor's own academic achievement. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to designate instructional personnel who have



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12 achieved high academic standards during their own education as
13 Florida's best and brightest teacher scholars.

14 (2) There is created the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher
15 Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of
16 Education. The scholarship program shall provide categorical
17 funding for scholarships to be awarded to instructional
18 personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01(2), who have demonstrated a
19 high level of academic achievement.

20 (3) (a) To be eligible for a scholarship, an instructor must
21 have achieved a composite score at or above the 80th percentile
22 on either the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile
23 Ranks in effect when the instructor took the assessment and have
24 been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the
25 school year immediately preceding the year in which the
26 scholarship will be awarded, unless the instructor is newly
27 hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated
28 pursuant to s. 1012.34.

29 (b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an
30 eligible instructor must submit to the school district, no later
31 than November 1, an official record of his or her SAT or ACT
32 score demonstrating that the instructor scored at or above the
33 80th percentile based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect
34 when the teacher took the assessment. Once an instructor is
35 deemed eligible by the school district, including teachers
36 deemed eligible in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the teacher shall
37 remain eligible as long as he or she remains employed by the
38 school district as an instructor at the time of the award and
39 receives an annual performance evaluation rating of highly
40 effective pursuant to s. 1012.34.



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41 (4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall
42 submit to the department the number of eligible instructional
43 personnel who qualify for the scholarship.

44 (5) Annually, by February 1, the department shall disburse
45 scholarship funds to each school district for each eligible
46 instructor to receive a scholarship as provided in the General
47 Appropriations Act. The amount disbursed shall include a
48 scholarship award of \$1,000, from the total amount of funds
49 appropriated, for each eligible instructor in a Title I school.
50 Of the remaining funds, a scholarship in the amount provided in
51 the General Appropriations Act shall be awarded to every
52 eligible instructor, including those in Title I schools. If the
53 number of eligible instructional personnel exceeds the total
54 appropriation authorized in the General Appropriations Act, the
55 department shall prorate the per-teacher scholarship amount.

56 (6) Annually, by April 1, each school district shall award
57 the scholarship to each eligible instructor.

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

61
62 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

63 And the title is amended as follows:

64 Delete line 84

65 and insert:

66 submit the number of eligible instructional personnel
67 to the