



450152

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Senator Bullard moved the following:

1           **Senate Amendment to Amendment (420294) (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

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4           Delete lines 761 - 817

5 and insert:

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



450152

12 Legislature to designate instructional personnel who have  
13 achieved high academic standards during their own education as  
14 Florida's best and brightest teacher scholars.

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

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

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



450152

41 effective pursuant to s. 1012.34.

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

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

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

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

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

64 And the title is amended as follows:

65 Delete line 1615

66 and insert:

67 submit the number of eligible instructional personnel  
68 to the