

By Senator Jones

35-00632-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the School Teacher Training and  
3       Mentoring Program; creating s. 1012.988, F.S.;  
4       establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring  
5       Program within the Department of Education; providing  
6       the purpose of the program; requiring the department  
7       to provide funds to school districts to place teachers  
8       who meet specified qualifications as mentors for  
9       certain other teachers, subject to appropriation;  
10      providing for the provision of stipends for classroom  
11      teacher mentorship; providing for the proration of the  
12      stipends under certain circumstances; providing  
13      department and school district responsibilities for  
14      developing policies, curriculum, and best practices  
15      relating to classroom instruction; authorizing the  
16      State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an  
17      effective date.

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19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21       Section 1. Section 1012.988, Florida Statutes, is created  
22 to read:

23       1012.988 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.—

24       (1) There is established within the Department of Education  
25 the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program. The purpose  
26 of the program is to increase the effectiveness and involvement  
27 of classroom teachers and improve student achievement, equity,  
28 and excellence in this state's public schools.

29       (2) The department shall:

35-00632-22

2022618\_\_

30       (a) Subject to appropriation, provide funds to school  
31 districts to place retired classroom teachers who were evaluated  
32 as highly effective or current classroom teachers who are  
33 evaluated as highly effective as mentors to new classroom  
34 teachers; classroom teachers who are rated as needs improvement,  
35 developing, or unsatisfactory; and classroom teachers who are  
36 from a different demographic group, if needed. The funds must be  
37 sufficient for each school district to establish three mentors  
38 at each school within the district and for school districts to  
39 provide each selected classroom teacher a stipend in the amount  
40 of \$2,000. However, if the funds appropriated are not adequate  
41 to provide the maximum stipend amount to each selected classroom  
42 teacher, amounts must be prorated using the same percentage  
43 reduction for all mentors.

44       (b) Increase classroom teacher involvement and input when  
45 developing state-level policies, curriculum, and best practices  
46 relating to classroom instruction.

47       (c) Create and expand nontraditional curriculum models and  
48 practices in reading and mathematics in an effort to steer  
49 systemic change.

50       (3) School districts shall:

51       (a) Subject to funds received from the department, provide  
52 a stipend to three retired classroom teachers who were evaluated  
53 as highly effective or current classroom teachers who are  
54 evaluated as highly effective at each school within the district  
55 to serve as mentors as described in paragraph (2) (a). However,  
56 if there is a proven need at a school within the district, the  
57 school district may allocate more than three stipends to that  
58 school. The provision of such stipends may be part of a school

35-00632-22

2022618\_\_

59 district's professional development certification and education  
60 competency program under s. 1012.56(8).

61 (b) Increase classroom teacher involvement and input when  
62 developing district-level policies, curriculum, and best  
63 practices relating to classroom instruction.

64 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
65 administer this section.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.