
SENATE BILL 5585

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Braun, Rolfes, Fain, Saldaña, Frockt, Conway, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/30/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the future teachers conditional
2 scholarship and loan repayment program to increase the number of
3 early elementary teachers; amending RCW 28B.102.010, 28B.102.030,
4 28B.102.040, 28B.102.050, 28B.102.055, 28B.102.060, and 28B.102.080;
5 adding a new section to chapter 28B.102 RCW; and providing an
6 expiration date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.102.010 and 2004 c 58 s 1 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 The legislature finds that encouraging outstanding students to
11 enter the teaching profession as early elementary teachers is of
12 paramount importance to the state of Washington as the state
13 implements the K-3 class size enhancements that were adopted by the
14 legislature in Substitute House Bill No. 2776, chapter 236, Laws of
15 2010. By (~~creating~~) modifying the future teachers conditional
16 scholarship and loan repayment program, the legislature intends to
17 assist in the effort to recruit as future K-3 teachers individuals
18 who have distinguished themselves through outstanding academic
19 achievement or demonstrated their commitment to teaching through work
20 as a paraprofessional in the public school system, and who can act as
21 role models for children. The legislature urges business, industry,

1 and philanthropic community organizations to join with state
2 government in making this program successful. While the legislature
3 intends for this program to assist school districts to have a
4 sufficient pool of competent and qualified early elementary teacher
5 applicants to implement the required basic education K-3 class size
6 reduction, the legislature does not intend to include this program
7 within the state's obligation for basic education funding under
8 Article IX of the state Constitution.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.102.030 and 2012 c 229 s 563 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 The future teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment
12 program is ~~((established))~~ modified to increase the number of early
13 elementary teachers in Washington teaching in a classroom in any of
14 the grades kindergarten through three. The program shall be
15 administered by the student achievement council. In administering the
16 program, the council shall have the following powers and duties:

17 (1) Select students to receive conditional scholarships or loan
18 repayments as provided in RCW 28B.102.040;

19 (2) Adopt necessary rules and guidelines;

20 (3) Publicize the program;

21 (4) Collect and manage repayments from students who do not meet
22 their teaching obligations under this chapter; and

23 (5) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public and
24 private sources for the program.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.102.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 178 are each
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (1) The ~~((office—may))~~ student achievement council, in
28 cooperation with the professional educator standards board, shall
29 select participants based on an application process conducted by the
30 office ~~((or the office may utilize selection processes for similar~~
31 ~~students in cooperation with the professional educator standards~~
32 ~~board or the office of the superintendent of public instruction)).~~

33 (2) ~~((If the office selects participants for the program, it~~
34 ~~shall establish))~~ A selection committee for screening and selecting
35 recipients of the conditional scholarships shall be established by
36 the student achievement council, in cooperation with the professional
37 educator standards board. The criteria shall emphasize factors
38 demonstrating excellence including but not limited to superior

1 scholastic achievement, leadership ability, community contributions,
2 bilingual ability, willingness to commit to providing teaching
3 service in ~~((shortage areas))~~ any of the grades kindergarten through
4 three, and an ability to act as a role model for students. ~~((Priority~~
5 ~~will be given to individuals seeking certification or an additional~~
6 ~~endorsement in math, science, technology education, agricultural~~
7 ~~education, business and marketing education, family and consumer~~
8 ~~science education, or special education.))~~

9 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.102.050 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 179 are each
10 amended to read as follows:

11 The office may award conditional scholarships or provide loan
12 repayments to eligible participants from the funds appropriated to
13 the office for this purpose, or from any private donations, or any
14 other funds given to the office for this program. The amount of the
15 conditional scholarship or loan repayment awarded an individual shall
16 not exceed the amount of tuition and fees at the institution of
17 higher education attended by the participant or resident
18 undergraduate tuition and fees at the University of Washington per
19 academic year for a full-time student, whichever is lower.
20 Participants are eligible to receive conditional scholarships or loan
21 repayments for a maximum of ~~((five))~~ four years.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.102.055 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 180 are each
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (1) Upon documentation of federal student loan indebtedness, the
25 office may enter into agreements with participants to repay ~~((all or~~
26 ~~part of))~~ a federal student loan in exchange for teaching service in
27 ~~((an approved educational program))~~ a public school in Washington in
28 any of the grades kindergarten through three. The ratio of loan
29 repayment to years of teaching service for the loan repayment program
30 shall be the same as established for the conditional scholarship
31 program.

32 (2) The agreement shall specify the period of time it is in
33 effect and detail the obligations of the office and the participant,
34 including the amount to be paid to the participant. ~~((The agreement~~
35 ~~may also specify the geographic location and subject matter area of~~
36 ~~teaching service for which loan repayment will be provided.))~~

37 (3) At the end of each school year, a participant under this
38 section shall provide evidence to the office that the requisite

1 teaching service has been provided. Upon receipt of the evidence, the
2 office shall pay the participant the agreed-upon amount for one year
3 of full-time teaching service or a prorated amount for less than
4 full-time teaching service. To qualify for additional loan
5 repayments, the participant must be engaged in continuous teaching
6 service as defined by the office.

7 (4) The office may, at its discretion, arrange to make the loan
8 repayment directly to the holder of the participant's federal student
9 loan.

10 (5) The office's obligations to a participant under this section
11 shall cease when:

12 (a) The terms of the agreement have been fulfilled;

13 (b) The participant fails to maintain continuous teaching service
14 as determined by the office; or

15 (c) All of the participant's federal student loans have been
16 repaid.

17 (6) The office shall adopt rules governing loan repayments,
18 including approved leaves of absence from continuous teaching service
19 and other deferments as may be necessary.

20 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.102.060 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 181 are each
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (1) Participants in the conditional scholarship program incur an
23 obligation to repay the conditional scholarship, with interest and an
24 equalization fee, unless they teach (~~((for two years))~~) in (~~((an~~
25 ~~approved education program))~~) a public school in Washington in any of
26 the grades kindergarten through three for each year of scholarship
27 received, under rules adopted by the office. (~~((Participants who teach~~
28 ~~in a designated teacher shortage area shall have one year of loan~~
29 ~~anceled for each year they teach in the shortage area.))~~)

30 (2) The interest rate shall be determined by the office.
31 Participants who fail to complete the teaching service shall incur an
32 equalization fee based on the remaining unforgiven balance of the
33 loan. The equalization fee shall be added to the remaining balance
34 and repaid by the participant.

35 (3) The minimum payment shall be set by the office. The maximum
36 period for repayment shall be ten years, with payments of principal
37 and interest commencing six months from the date the participant
38 completes or discontinues the course of study. The interest rate
39 shall be determined by the office and be established by rule.

1 Provisions for deferral of payment shall be determined by the office.
2 The office shall establish an appeal process by rule.

3 (4) The entire principal and interest of each payment shall be
4 forgiven for each payment period in which the participant teaches in
5 ~~((an approved education program))~~ a public school in Washington in
6 any of the grades kindergarten through three until the entire
7 repayment obligation is satisfied. Should the participant cease to
8 teach in ~~((an approved education program in this state))~~ a public
9 school in Washington in any of the grades kindergarten through three
10 before the participant's repayment obligation is completed, payments
11 on the unsatisfied portion of the principal and interest shall begin
12 the next payment period and continue until the remainder of the
13 participant's repayment obligation is satisfied.

14 (5) The office is responsible for collection of repayments made
15 under this section and shall exercise due diligence in such
16 collection, maintaining all necessary records to insure that maximum
17 repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments under
18 this section shall be pursued using the full extent of the law,
19 including wage garnishment if necessary. The office is responsible to
20 forgive all or parts of such repayments under the criteria
21 established in this section and shall maintain all necessary records
22 of forgiven payments.

23 (6) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest or any
24 other subsidies to which the office as administrator is entitled,
25 which are paid by or on behalf of participants under this section,
26 shall be deposited in the future teachers conditional scholarship
27 account and shall be used to cover the costs of granting the
28 conditional scholarships, maintaining necessary records, and making
29 collections under subsection (5) of this section. The office shall
30 maintain accurate records of these costs, and all receipts beyond
31 those necessary to pay such costs shall be used to grant conditional
32 scholarships to eligible students.

33 (7) The office shall adopt rules to define the terms of
34 repayment, including applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

35 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.102.080 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 182 are each
36 amended to read as follows:

37 (1) The future teachers conditional scholarship account is
38 created in the custody of the state treasurer. An appropriation is
39 not required for expenditures of funds from the account. The account

1 is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW except
2 for moneys used for program administration.

3 (2) The office shall deposit in the account all moneys received
4 for the future teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment
5 program and for conditional loan programs under chapter 28A.660 RCW.
6 The account shall be self-sustaining and consist of funds
7 appropriated by the legislature for the future teachers conditional
8 scholarship and loan repayment program, private contributions to the
9 program, receipts from participant repayments from the future
10 teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment program, and
11 conditional loan programs established under chapter 28A.660 RCW.
12 (~~Beginning July 1, 2004,~~) The office shall also deposit into the
13 account: (a) All funds from the institution of higher education loan
14 account that are traceable to any conditional scholarship program for
15 teachers or prospective teachers established by the legislature
16 before June 10, 2004; and (b) all amounts repaid by individuals under
17 any such program.

18 (3) Expenditures from the account may be used solely for
19 conditional loans and loan repayments to participants in the future
20 teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment program
21 established by this chapter, conditional scholarships for
22 participants in programs established in chapter 28A.660 RCW, and
23 costs associated with program administration by the office.

24 (4) Disbursements from the account may be made only on the
25 authorization of the office.

26 (~~((5) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may
27 transfer from the future teachers conditional scholarship account to
28 the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund
29 balance of the account.))~~)

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.102
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) This section is the state spending performance statement for
33 the expansion of the future teachers conditional scholarship and loan
34 repayment program provided in this chapter. This performance
35 statement is intended only to be used for subsequent evaluation of
36 the expansion of this program for expanded scholarships and loan
37 repayments provided for kindergarten through third grade teachers. It
38 is not intended to create a private right of action by any party or

1 be used to determine eligibility for the services provided by the
2 program.

3 (2) It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to
4 increase in-state production of certificated teachers in early
5 elementary education at the state's institutions of higher education.
6 By expanding the future teachers conditional scholarship and loan
7 repayment program for early elementary teachers, the legislature
8 intends to achieve the following outcomes:

9 (a) Increase statewide early elementary teachers in grades
10 kindergarten through third;

11 (b) Increase applications for the future teachers conditional
12 scholarship and loan repayment program for early elementary education
13 certifications;

14 (c) Attract candidates who are successfully employed in the
15 education field for more than five years; and

16 (d) Determine which state-funded teacher preparation scholarship
17 program, the alternative route conditional scholarship or the future
18 teachers scholarship, provided the most successful teacher
19 applicants.

20 (3) If a review by the joint legislative audit and review
21 committee finds that the multiple outcomes identified in subsection
22 (2) of this section have been achieved, then the legislature intends
23 to extend the expiration of the expansion of the early elementary
24 education endorsement in the future teachers conditional scholarship
25 and loan repayment program.

26 (4) In order for the joint legislative audit and review committee
27 to obtain the data necessary to review the performance of the
28 scholarships provided in chapter . . ., Laws of 2017 (this act), the
29 joint legislative audit and review committee may require the student
30 achievement council to collect and quantify the information and data
31 required for the joint legislative audit and review committee. The
32 joint legislative audit and review committee may also survey
33 recipients of the scholarships and school districts.

34 (5) No later than January 1, 2027, the joint legislative audit
35 and review committee must review the program expanded by
36 chapter . . ., Laws of 2017 (this act), determine its effectiveness,
37 and provide a recommendation to the fiscal committees of the
38 legislature as to whether the program should be continued without
39 modification, modified, scheduled for sunset review at a future date,
40 or terminated immediately. If the committee determines that the

1 program does not achieve any of the outcomes specified in subsection
2 (2) of this section, the committee shall recommend termination of the
3 expanded endorsements provided. The committee may recommend
4 accountability standards for the future review of the spending
5 program.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act expires July 1, 2027.

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