H-4092.3

## SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2698

State of Washington65th Legislature2018 Regular SessionBy House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives<br/>Bergquist, Muri, and Ortiz-Self)by Representatives

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.040, 2 28A.413.060, 28A.413.070, and 28A.660.050; creating a new section; 3 repealing RCW 28A.660.042; and making appropriations.

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

5

## PARAEDUCATOR REQUIREMENTS

6 Sec. 1. RCW 28A.413.040 and 2017 c 237 s 5 are each amended to 7 read as follows:

8 ((Effective September 1, 2018,)) (1)(a) A person working as a 9 paraeducator for a school district before or during the 2017-18 10 school year must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of this 11 section by the date of hire for the 2019-20 school year or any 12 subsequent school year.

13 (b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for 14 a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of 15 this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any 16 subsequent school year.

17 <u>(2)</u> The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as 18 provided in this <u>sub</u>section. ((The)) <u>A</u> paraeducator must:

19 ((<del>(1)</del>)) <u>(a)</u> Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high 20 school diploma or its equivalent; and 1  $((\frac{2}{a}))$  (b)(i) Have received a passing grade on the education 2 testing service paraeducator assessment; or

(((<del>b)</del>)) (<u>ii)</u> Hold an associate of arts degree; or 3

(((<del>(c)</del>)) (<u>iii</u>) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-4 eight semester credits at an institution of higher education; or 5 6 (((<del>(d)</del>))) (<u>iv)</u> Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. By October 1, 2018, a school district that does not receive funding under Title I of the federal elementary and 8 secondary education act of 1965 must report to the paraeducator board 9 10 with the following information about paraeducators hired by the 11 school district for the 2018-19 school year, as of September 1, 2018: The total number of paraeducators and the number who meet the minimum 12 13 employment requirements provided in RCW 28A.413.040.

14 Sec. 3. RCW 28A.413.060 and 2017 c 237 s 7 are each amended to 15 read as follows:

16 (1) ((Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2019,)) School 17 districts must implement this section only in school years for which 18 19 state funding is appropriated specifically for the purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are funded by the 20 21 appropriation.

(2) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental course 22 23 of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the board, 24 to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in the district or in another district within the state. School districts 25 26 must use best efforts to provide the fundamental course of study 27 before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their families, and at a minimum by the deadlines provided in subsection 28 29  $\left(\left(\frac{2}{2}\right)\right)$  (3) of this section.

30 (((<del>(2)</del>)) (3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in 31 subsection (((1))) (2) of this section ((as follows)) by the 32 deadlines provided in (a) of this subsection: 33

34 (a)(i) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, by September 30th of that year, regardless of the size of the district; 35 36 and

37

(((<del>b)</del>)) (<u>ii</u>) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

(((i))) (A) For districts with ten thousand or more students,
 within four months of the date of hire; and

3 (((ii))) (B) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students,
4 no later than September 1st of the following year.

5 (((3))) (b)(i) For paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school
6 year, by September 1, 2020; and

7 (ii) For paraeducators not hired for the 2018-19 school year, but
 8 hired for the 2019-20 school year, by September 1, 2021.

9 <u>(4)</u> School districts may collaborate with other school districts 10 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this 11 section.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.413.070 and 2017 c 237 s 8 are each amended to 13 read as follows:

14 (1) <u>School districts must implement this section only in school</u> 15 <u>years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for the</u> 16 <u>purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are</u> 17 <u>funded by the appropriation.</u>

18 (2)(a) Paraeducators may become eligible for a general 19 paraeducator certificate by completing the four-day fundamental 20 course of study, as required under RCW 28A.413.060, and an additional 21 ten days of general courses, as defined by the board, on the state 22 paraeducator standards of practice, described in RCW 28A.413.050.

23 (b) Paraeducators are not required to meet the general 24 paraeducator certificate requirements under this subsection (((1)))25 (2) unless ((amounts are appropriated for the specific purposes of 26 subsection (2) of this section and RCW 28A.413.060)) the courses 27 necessary to meet the requirements are funded by the state in accordance with subsection (1) of this section and 28 RCW 29 <u>28A.413.060(1)</u>.

30 (((2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for 31 this specific purpose,)) (3) Beginning September 1, 2019, school 32 districts must:

33 (a) Provide paraeducators with general courses on the state34 paraeducator standards of practice; and

35 (b) Ensure all paraeducators employed by the district meet the 36 general certification requirements of this section within three years 37 of completing the four-day fundamental course of study.

38

(((3))) (4) The general paraeducator certificate does not expire.

PIPELINE FOR PARAEDUCATORS CONDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

2 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.660.050 and 2016 c 233 s 14 are each amended to 3 read as follows:

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
specific purpose, the conditional scholarship programs in this
chapter are created under the following guidelines:

7 (1) The programs shall be administered by the student achievement
8 council. In administering the programs, the council has the following
9 powers and duties:

10 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer11 the programs;

12 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not 13 meet their service obligations; and

14 (c) To accept grants and donations from public and private 15 sources for the programs.

16 (2) Requirements for participation in the conditional scholarship17 programs are as provided in this subsection (2).

(a) The alternative route conditional scholarship program is 18 19 limited to interns of professional educator standards board-approved 20 alternative route teacher certification programs under ((<del>RC₩</del> 21 28A.660.040)) RCW 28A.660.020. For fiscal year 2011, priority must be given to fiscal year 2010 participants in the alternative route 22 23 partnership program. In order to receive conditional scholarship 24 awards, recipients shall:

(i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment in an alternative route
 teacher certification program through a professional educator
 standards board-approved program;

(ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of the alternative route teacher certification program and receipt of a residency teaching certificate; and

(iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship, 31 not to exceed eight thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees, 32 educational 33 and expenses, including books, supplies, and 34 transportation for the alternative route teacher certification 35 program in which the recipient is enrolled. The council may adjust 36 the annual award by the average rate of resident undergraduate 37 tuition and fee increases at the state universities as defined in RCW 38 28B.10.016.

1

1 (b) The pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship 2 program is limited to ((qualified)) paraeducators ((as provided by 3 RCW 28A.660.042)) without a college degree who have experience as 4 defined by the professional educator standards board. In order to 5 receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients shall:

6 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment at a community and 7 technical college ((for no more than two years and attain an 8 associate of arts degree));

(ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of 9 an associate of arts degree((. This progress requirement is a 10 11 condition for eligibility into a route one program of the alternative 12 route teacher certification program for an early childhood education, elementary education, mathematics, computer science, special 13 education, bilingual education, or English as a second language 14 endorsement)) with an educational plan that includes enrollment in an 15 alternative route teacher certification program; and 16

17 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship, not to exceed four thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees, 18 19 educational expenses, including books, and supplies, and transportation ((for the alternative route teacher certification 20 21 program in which the recipient is enrolled)). The ((student achievement council may adjust the annual)) award may be adjusted 22 annually by the average rate of tuition and fee increases at the 23 state community and technical colleges. 24

25 (c) The educator retooling conditional scholarship program is 26 limited to current K-12 teachers. In order to receive conditional 27 scholarship awards:

(i) Individuals currently employed as teachers shall pursue an endorsement in a subject or geographic endorsement shortage area, as defined by the professional educator standards board, including but not limited to mathematics, science, special education, elementary education, early childhood education, bilingual education, English language learner, computer science education, or environmental and sustainability education; or

(ii) Individuals who are certificated with an elementary education endorsement shall pursue an endorsement in a subject or geographic endorsement shortage area, as defined by the professional educator standards board, including but not limited to mathematics, science, special education, bilingual education, English language

p. 5

1 learner, computer science education, or environmental and 2 sustainability education; and

(iii) Individuals shall use one of the pathways to endorsement 3 processes to receive an endorsement in a subject or geographic 4 endorsement shortage area, as defined by the professional educator 5 6 standards board, including but not limited to mathematics, science, special education, bilingual education, English language learner, 7 computer science education, or environmental and sustainability 8 education, which shall include passing an endorsement test plus 9 observation and completing applicable coursework to attain the proper 10 11 endorsement; and

(iv) Individuals shall receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship, not to exceed three thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, test fees, and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and transportation for the endorsement pathway being pursued.

17 (3) The Washington professional educator standards board shall select individuals to receive conditional scholarships. In selecting 18 recipients, preference shall be given to eligible veterans 19 or national guard members. In awarding conditional scholarships to 20 support additional bilingual education or English language learner 21 endorsements, the board shall also give preference to teachers 22 assigned to schools required under state or federal accountability 23 measures to implement a plan for improvement, and to teachers 24 25 assigned to schools whose enrollment of English language learner 26 students has increased an average of more than five percent per year 27 over the previous three years.

(4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is 28 29 a loan that is forgiven in whole or in part in exchange for service as a certificated teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public 30 31 school. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every 32 two years a recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients who fail to continue a course of study leading to residency teacher 33 certification or cease to teach in a public school in the state of 34 Washington in their endorsement area are required to repay the 35 36 remaining loan principal with interest.

37 (5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching 38 obligation are required to repay the remaining loan principal with 39 interest and any other applicable fees. The student achievement

р. б

council shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment,
 including applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

3 (6) The student achievement council may deposit all 4 appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the 5 program in this chapter in the future teachers conditional 6 scholarship account authorized in RCW 28B.102.080.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. RCW 28A.660.042 (Pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship program) and 2017 c 237 s 19 & 2007 c 396 s 6 are each repealed.

10

## APPROPRIATIONS

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 7. (1) The sum of five hundred thousand 11 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for 12 13 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, from the general fund to the 14 office of the superintendent of public instruction who, in 15 consultation with the paraeducator board, must procure or develop 16 development for paraeducator subject professional matter certificates, in English language learner and special education, and 17 18 the advanced paraeducator certificate, and must align courses with 19 general paraeducator certificate professional development, including any necessary changes or edits to general paraeducator certificate 20 21 online modules.

22 (2) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof 23 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to the office of the superintendent 24 25 of public instruction who, in consultation with the paraeducator 26 board, must procure or develop professional development for paraeducator subject matter certificates, in English language learner 27 28 and special education, and the advanced paraeducator certificate, and 29 must align courses with general paraeducator certificate professional 30 development, including any necessary changes or edits to general paraeducator certificate online modules. 31

--- END ---