

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 569
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 3/24/05

Short Title: Teacher Scholarships/Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FUTURE TEACHERS OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO AGREE TO BECOME CERTIFIED IN CERTAIN SUBJECT AREAS AND TEACH IN THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section:

"§ 116-209.38. Future Teachers of North Carolina Scholarship Fund.

(a) There is established the Future Teachers of North Carolina Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide a two-year scholarship loan of six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) per year for any North Carolina student pursuing a college degree to teach in the public schools of the State. The scholarship loan shall be paid only for the student's junior and senior years. The scholarship loan is available if the student is enrolled in a State institution of higher education or a private institution of higher education located in this State that has an accredited teacher preparation program for students planning to become certified teachers in North Carolina. The State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund and shall award 100 scholarship loans annually.

(b) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina in consultation with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges shall develop the criteria for awarding the scholarship loans under this section and shall adopt very stringent standards for awarding these scholarship loans to ensure that only the best students receive them. Additional criteria for awarding a scholarship loan under this section shall include all of the following:

- (1) The student is one who either: (i) maintained a "B" average in college and is enrolled as a junior or senior in a teacher preparation program at any of the institutions described by subsection (a) of this section; or

1 (ii) completed a college transfer curriculum at a community college in
2 the State's community college system, maintained a "B" average in the
3 community college courses, and is accepted and enrolled in a teacher
4 preparation program at one of the institutions described by subsection
5 (a) of this section.

6 (2) The student agrees to become certified in math, science, special
7 education, or English as a Second Language and teach full-time in that
8 subject area in a North Carolina public school for three years within
9 four years after graduation.

10 (3) Any additional criteria that the Board of Governors of The University
11 of North Carolina in consultation with the State Board of Education
12 and the State Board of Community Colleges considers necessary to
13 administer the Fund effectively.

14 (c) If a student who is awarded a scholarship loan under this section fails to
15 comply with the provisions of this section or the terms of the agreement awarding the
16 scholarship loan, then the student shall repay the full amount of the scholarship loan
17 provided to the student and the appropriate amount of interest as determined by the
18 State Education Assistance Authority.

19 (d) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the State Board
20 of Education, and the State Board of Community Colleges shall: (i) prepare a clear
21 written explanation of the Future Teachers of North Carolina Scholarship Fund and the
22 information regarding the availability and criteria for awarding the scholarship loans,
23 and (ii) shall provide that information to the appropriate counselors in each local school
24 system and the appropriate institutions of higher education and shall charge those
25 counselors to inform students about the scholarship loans and to encourage them to
26 apply for the scholarship loans.

27 (e) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall adopt
28 rules to implement this section.

29 (f) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report to
30 the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1 each year regarding
31 the Fund and scholarship loans awarded from the Fund."

32 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State
33 Education Assistance Authority the sum of six hundred fifty thousand dollars
34 (\$650,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of one million three hundred
35 thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to implement this act.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.