

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 1084

Short Title: Bob Jordan Teaching Fellows Restoration Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hunt, Ball, Brewer, and Quick (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 14, 2020

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE BOB JORDAN TEACHING FELLOWS RESTORATION
3 PROGRAM ACT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE ACT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Part 3 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes reads as
6 rewritten:

7 "Part 3. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

8 **"§ 116-209.60. Definitions.**

9 The following definitions apply in this Part:

- 10 (1) Commission. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission.
11 (2) Director. – The Director of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.
12 (3) Forgivable loan. – A forgivable loan made under the Program.
13 (4) Program. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.
14 (5) Public school. – An elementary or secondary school located in North Carolina
15 that is governed by a local board of education, charter school board of
16 directors, regional school board of directors, or University of North Carolina
17 laboratory school board of trustees.
18 (6) ~~STEM. – Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.~~
19 (7) Trust Fund. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund.

20 ...

21 **"§ 116-209.62. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program established; administration.**

22 (a) Program. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program to be
23 administered by the System Office of The University of North Carolina, in conjunction with the
24 Authority and the Commission. The purpose of the Program is to recruit, prepare, and support
25 students residing in or attending institutions of higher education located in North Carolina for
26 preparation as highly effective ~~STEM or special education~~ teachers in the State's public schools.
27 The Program shall be used to provide a forgivable loan to individuals interested in preparing to
28 teach in the public schools of the ~~State in STEM or special education licensure areas.~~ State.

29 (b) Trust Fund. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program
30 Trust Fund to be administered by the Authority, in conjunction with the System Office of The
31 University of North Carolina. All funds (i) appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the Program
32 for forgivable loans and other Program purposes, (ii) received as repayment of forgivable loans,
33 and (iii) earned as interest on these funds shall be placed in the Trust Fund. The purpose of the
34 Trust Fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified students for completion of teacher



1 education and licensure programs to ~~fill STEM or special education licensure areas~~ teach in the
2 public schools of the State.

3 (c) Uses of Monies in the Trust Fund. – The monies in the Trust Fund may be used only
4 for (i) forgivable loans granted under the Program, (ii) administrative costs associated with the
5 Program, including recruitment and recovery of funds advanced under the Program, (iii)
6 mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients, and (iv) extracurricular
7 enhancement activities of the Program in accordance with the following:

8 (1) The Authority shall transfer the greater of six hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$600,000) or ten percent (10%) of the available funds from the Trust Fund to
10 the ~~General Administration System Office~~ of The University of North
11 Carolina at the beginning of each fiscal year for the Program's administrative
12 costs, the salary of the Director of the Program and other Program staff,
13 expenses of the Commission, and to provide the Commission with funds to
14 use for the extracurricular enhancement activities of the Program.

15 (2) The Authority may use the greater of two hundred fifty thousand dollars
16 (\$250,000) or four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated to the Trust Fund
17 each fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the Program.

18 (3) The Authority shall provide the Commission with up to six hundred thousand
19 dollars (\$600,000) from the Trust Fund in each fiscal year for the Commission
20 to provide mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients
21 through the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program as follows:

22 a. Up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each Program recipient
23 serving as a teacher in a North Carolina public school identified as
24 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.

25 b. Up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each Program recipient
26 serving as a teacher in a North Carolina public school not identified as
27 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.

28 (d) Director of the Program. – The Board of Governors of The University of North
29 Carolina shall appoint a Director of the Program. The Director shall appoint staff to the
30 Commission and shall be responsible for recruitment and coordination of the Program, including
31 proactive, aggressive, and strategic recruitment of potential recipients. Recruitment activities
32 shall include (i) targeting regions of the State with the highest teacher attrition rates and teacher
33 recruitment challenges, (ii) actively engaging with educators, business leaders, experts in human
34 resources, elected officials, and other community leaders throughout the State, and (iii) attracting
35 candidates ~~in STEM and special education licensure areas~~ to the Program. The Director shall
36 report to the President of The University of North Carolina. The Authority shall provide office
37 space and clerical support staff, as necessary, to the Director for the Program.

38 (e) Student Selection Criteria for Forgivable Loans. – The Commission shall adopt
39 stringent standards for awarding forgivable loans based on multiple measures to ensure that only
40 the strongest applicants receive them, including the following:

41 (1) Grade point averages.

42 (2) Performance on relevant career and college readiness assessments.

43 (3) Experience, accomplishments, and other criteria demonstrating qualities
44 positively correlated with highly effective teachers, including excellent verbal
45 and communication skills.

46 (4) Demonstrated commitment to serve ~~in a STEM or special education licensure~~
47 ~~area~~ in North Carolina public schools.

48 (f) Program Selection Criteria. – The Authority shall administer the Program in
49 cooperation with ~~five~~ the following institutions of higher education with approved educator
50 preparation programs ~~selected by the Commission that represent both postsecondary constituent~~
51 ~~institutions of The University of North Carolina and private postsecondary institutions operating~~

1 in the State. ~~The Commission shall adopt stringent standards for selection of the most effective~~
 2 ~~educator preparation programs, including the following programs:~~

- 3 (1) ~~Demonstrates high rates of educator effectiveness on value-added models and~~
 4 ~~teacher evaluations, including using performance-based, subject-specific~~
 5 ~~assessment and support systems, such as edTPA or other metrics of evaluating~~
 6 ~~candidate effectiveness that have predictive validity. The University of North~~
 7 ~~Carolina at Chapel Hill.~~
- 8 (2) ~~Demonstrates measurable impact of prior graduates on student learning,~~
 9 ~~including impact of graduates teaching in STEM or special education~~
 10 ~~licensure areas. The University of North Carolina at Asheville.~~
- 11 (3) ~~Demonstrates high rates of graduates passing exams required for teacher~~
 12 ~~licensure. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.~~
- 13 (4) ~~Provides curricular and co-curricular enhancements in leadership, facilitates~~
 14 ~~learning for diverse learners, and promotes community engagement,~~
 15 ~~classroom management, and reflection and assessment. The University of~~
 16 ~~North Carolina at Pembroke.~~
- 17 (5) ~~Requires at least a minor concentration of study in the subject area that the~~
 18 ~~candidate may teach. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington.~~
- 19 (6) ~~Provides early and frequent internship or practical experiences, including the~~
 20 ~~opportunity for participants to perform practicums in diverse school~~
 21 ~~environments. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte.~~
- 22 (7) ~~Is approved by the State Board of Education as an educator preparation~~
 23 ~~program. North Carolina Central University.~~
- 24 (8) ~~North Carolina State University.~~
- 25 (9) ~~East Carolina University.~~
- 26 (10) ~~North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.~~
- 27 (11) ~~Western Carolina University.~~
- 28 (12) ~~Appalachian State University.~~
- 29 (13) ~~Meredith College.~~
- 30 (14) ~~Campbell University.~~
- 31 (15) ~~Elon University.~~
- 32 (16) ~~Lenoir-Rhyne University.~~
- 33 (17) ~~Queens University of Charlotte.~~

34 (g) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans to selected
 35 students to be used at the ~~five selected participating~~ institutions for completion of a program
 36 leading to initial teacher licensure as follows:

- 37 (1) North Carolina high school seniors. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand
 38 one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to eight
 39 semesters.
- 40 (2) Students applying for transfer to a ~~selected participating~~ educator preparation
 41 program at an institution of higher education. – Forgivable loans of up to four
 42 thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to six
 43 semesters.
- 44 (3) Individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for
 45 teacher licensure. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand one hundred
 46 twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to four semesters.
- 47 (4) Students matriculating at institutions of higher education who are changing to
 48 ~~enrollment in an approved program of study at a selected participating~~
 49 ~~educator preparation program.~~ – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand one
 50 hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to four semesters.

1 Forgivable loans may be used for tuition, fees, the cost of books, and expenses related to
2 obtaining licensure.

3 ~~(h) Identification of STEM and Special Education Licensure Areas.—The Superintendent
4 of Public Instruction shall identify and provide to the Commission and the Authority a list of
5 STEM and special education licensure areas and shall annually provide to the Commission the
6 number of available positions in each licensure area relative to the number of current and
7 anticipated teachers in that area of licensure. The Commission shall make the list of STEM and
8 special education licensure areas readily available to applicants.~~

9 (i) Administration of Forgivable Loan Awards. – Upon the naming of recipients of the
10 forgivable loans by the Commission, the Commission shall transfer to the Authority its decisions.
11 The Authority, in coordination with the Director, shall perform all of the administrative functions
12 necessary to implement this Part, which functions shall include rule making, disseminating
13 information, acting as a liaison with participating institutions of higher education, implementing
14 forgivable loan agreements, loan monitoring, loan cancelling through service and collection,
15 determining the acceptability of service repayment agreements, enforcing the agreements, and
16 all other functions necessary for the execution, payment, and enforcement of promissory notes
17 required under this Part.

18 (j) Annual Report. – The Commission, in coordination with the Authority, the
19 Department of Public Instruction, and the ~~selected~~ educator education programs participating in
20 the Program shall report no later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, to the Joint
21 Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the following:

22 (1) Forgivable loans awarded from the Trust Fund, including the following:

- 23 a. Demographic information regarding recipients.
24 b. Number of recipients by institution of higher education and program.
25 e. ~~Information on number of recipients by anticipated STEM and special
26 education licensure area.~~

27 (2) Placement and repayment rates, including the following:

- 28 a. Number of graduates who have been employed ~~in a STEM or special
29 education licensure area~~ within two years of program completion.
30 b. Number of graduates who accepted employment at a low-performing
31 school identified under G.S. 115C-105.37 as part of their years of
32 service.
33 c. Number of graduates who have elected to do loan repayment and their
34 years of service, if any, prior to beginning loan repayment.
35 d. Number of graduates employed ~~in a STEM or special education
36 licensure area~~ who have received an overall rating of at least
37 accomplished and have met expected growth on applicable standards
38 of the teacher evaluation instrument.
39 e. Aggregate information on student growth and proficiency in courses
40 taught by graduates who have fulfilled service ~~requirements through
41 employment in a STEM or special education licensure
42 area.~~ requirements.

43 (2a) Mentoring and coaching support through the North Carolina New Teacher
44 Support Program, including the following:

- 45 a. Number of forgivable loan recipients who received mentoring and
46 coaching support when employed at a low-performing school
47 identified under G.S. 115C-105.37.
48 b. Number of forgivable loan recipients who received mentoring and
49 coaching support when employed at a school not identified as
50 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.

51 (3) Selected school outcomes by program, including the following:

- 1 a. Turnover rate for forgivable loan graduates, including the turnover rate
- 2 for graduates who also received mentoring and coaching support
- 3 through the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program.
- 4 b. Aggregate information on student growth and proficiency as provided
- 5 annually by the State Board of Education to the Commission in courses
- 6 taught by forgivable loan graduates.
- 7 c. Fulfillment rate of forgivable loan graduates.

8 **"§ 116-209.63. Terms of forgivable loans; receipt and disbursement of funds.**

9 (a) Notes. – All forgivable loans shall be evidenced by notes made payable to the
10 Authority that bear interest at a rate not to exceed ten percent (10%) per year as set by the
11 Authority and beginning on the first day of September after the completion of the program
12 leading to teacher licensure or 90 days after graduation, whichever is later. If a forgivable loan is
13 terminated, the note shall be made payable to the Authority 90 days after termination of the
14 forgivable loan. The forgivable loan may be terminated upon the recipient's withdrawal from the
15 Program or by the recipient's failure to meet the standards set by the Commission.

16 (b) Forgiveness. – The Authority shall forgive the loan and any interest accrued on the
17 loan if, within 10 years after graduation from a program leading to teacher licensure, exclusive
18 of any authorized deferment for extenuating circumstances, the recipient serves as a teacher ~~in a~~
19 ~~STEM or special education licensure area, as provided in G.S. 116-209.62(h),~~ for every year the
20 teacher was awarded the forgivable loan, in any combination of the following:

- 21 (1) One year at a North Carolina public school identified as low-performing under
22 G.S. 115C-105.37 at the time the teacher accepts employment at the school
23 or, if the teacher changes employment during this period, at another school
24 identified as low-performing.
- 25 (2) Two years at a North Carolina public school not identified as low-performing
26 under G.S. 115C-105.37.

27 The Authority shall also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible for the recipient to
28 work for up to eight years, within 10 years after completion of the program leading to teacher
29 licensure, at a North Carolina public school because of the death or permanent disability of the
30 recipient. If the recipient repays the forgivable loan by cash payments, all indebtedness shall be
31 repaid within 10 years after completion of the program leading to teacher licensure supported by
32 the forgivable loan. If the recipient completes a program leading to teacher licensure, payment
33 of principal and interest shall begin no later than the first day of September after the completion
34 of the program. Should a recipient present extenuating circumstances, the Authority may extend
35 the period to repay the loan in cash to no more than a total of 12 years."

36 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
37 Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund established under G.S. 116-209.62, as amended by this
38 act, the sum of two million nine hundred eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars
39 (\$2,987,500) in additional recurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to provide for additional
40 slots for forgivable loans under Part 3 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, as
41 amended by this act, beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year. It is the intent of the General
42 Assembly to appropriate from the General Fund to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program
43 Trust Fund established under G.S. 116-209.62 the following funds for the purpose of providing
44 a total of 2000 slots for forgivable loans beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year:

- 45 (1) For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, two million nine hundred eighty-seven
46 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,987,500) in additional recurring funds.
- 47 (2) For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of two million nine hundred
48 eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,987,500) in additional
49 recurring funds.

1 (3) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of two million nine hundred
2 eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,987,500) in additional
3 recurring funds.

4 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020, and applies to the
5 administration of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program on or after that date.