

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 408

Short Title: Expand Teaching Fellows Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Gill, Clemmons, Hawkins, and Brockman (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

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

March 21, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM TO
INCLUDE PARTICIPATION BY ALL CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WITH EDUCATOR PREPARATION
PROGRAMS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 116-209.62(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Trust Fund. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund to be administered by the Authority, in conjunction with the System Office of The University of North Carolina. All funds (i) appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the Program for forgivable loans and other Program purposes, (ii) received as repayment of forgivable loans, and (iii) earned as interest on these funds shall be placed in the Trust Fund. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified students for completion of teacher education and licensure programs to fill STEM or special education licensure areas in the public schools of the State. Funds appropriated to the Fund that are unexpended and unencumbered at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert, but shall remain available to the Authority for the purposes established in this Part."

SECTION 2. G.S. 116-209.62, as amended by Section 1 of this act, reads as rewritten:

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

...

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

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



- 1 (2) The Authority may use the greater of two hundred fifty thousand dollars
 2 (\$250,000) or four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated to the Trust Fund
 3 each fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the Program.
- 4 (3) The Authority shall provide the Commission with up to six hundred thousand
 5 dollars (\$600,000) from the Trust Fund in each fiscal year for the Commission
 6 to provide mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients
 7 through the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program as follows:
- 8 a. Up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each Program recipient
 9 serving as a teacher in a North Carolina public school identified as
 10 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.
- 11 b. Up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each Program recipient
 12 serving as a teacher in a North Carolina public school not identified as
 13 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.
- 14 ...
- 15 (f) Program Selection Criteria. – The Authority shall administer the Program in
 16 cooperation with ~~five-all of the constituent~~ institutions of ~~higher education~~ The University of
 17 North Carolina with approved educator preparation ~~programs selected by the~~ programs. The
 18 Commission ~~that represent both postsecondary constituent institutions of The University of North~~
 19 ~~Carolina and may also select up to two private postsecondary institutions operating in the State.~~
 20 ~~The Commission shall adopt State to participate in the Program if the institutions meet~~ stringent
 21 standards for selection of the most effective educator preparation programs, including the
 22 following:
- 23 (1) Demonstrates high rates of educator effectiveness on value-added models and
 24 teacher evaluations, including using performance-based, subject-specific
 25 assessment and support systems, such as edTPA or other metrics of evaluating
 26 candidate effectiveness that have predictive validity.
- 27 (2) Demonstrates measurable impact of prior graduates on student learning,
 28 including impact of graduates teaching in STEM or special education
 29 licensure areas.
- 30 (3) Demonstrates high rates of graduates passing exams required for teacher
 31 licensure.
- 32 (4) Provides curricular and co-curricular enhancements in leadership, facilitates
 33 learning for diverse learners, and promotes community engagement,
 34 classroom management, and reflection and assessment.
- 35 (5) Requires at least a minor concentration of study in the subject area that the
 36 candidate may teach.
- 37 (6) Provides early and frequent internship or practical experiences, including the
 38 opportunity for participants to perform practicums in diverse school
 39 environments.
- 40 (7) Is approved by the State Board of Education as an educator preparation
 41 program.
- 42 (g) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans to selected
 43 students to be used at the ~~five-constituent institutions and any other~~ selected institutions for
 44 completion of a program leading to initial teacher licensure as follows:
- 45 (1) North Carolina high school seniors. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand
 46 one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to eight
 47 semesters.
- 48 (2) Students applying for transfer to ~~a selected an~~ an educator preparation program
 49 at an institution of higher education. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand
 50 one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to six semesters.

1 (3) Individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for
2 teacher licensure. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand one hundred
3 twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to four semesters.

4 (4) Students matriculating at institutions of higher education who are changing to
5 ~~enrollment in a selected~~ an approved program of study at an educator
6 preparation program. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand one hundred
7 twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to four semesters.

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

10 (h) Identification of STEM and Special Education Licensure Areas. – The Superintendent
11 of Public Instruction shall identify and provide to the Commission and the Authority a list of
12 STEM and special education licensure areas and shall annually provide to the Commission the
13 number of available positions in each licensure area relative to the number of current and
14 anticipated teachers in that area of licensure. The Commission shall make the list of STEM and
15 special education licensure areas readily available to applicants.

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

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

29"

30 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective June 30, 2019. Section 2 of this
31 act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies to the award of forgivable loans beginning with
32 the 2020-2021 academic year. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.