

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 631

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1487L.03P

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.700, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the Missouri teaching fellows program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 168.700, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 168.173, and 168.700, to read as follows:

168.173. 1. Beginning in school year 2011-2012, registered professional school nurses employed by a school district shall be paid on the same pay scale as teachers working in the same school district, with nurses and teachers having equivalent education and experience.

2. The salary requirements under this section for registered professional school nurses shall not result in a decrease or loss of any existing school funding or decrease the current number of registered professional school nurse staffing positions in any school district.

3. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Registered professional school nurse", a registered professional nurse, as defined in section 335.016, RSMo, employed by a school district to engage in the practice of professional nursing, as defined in section 335.016, RSMo, for such school district;

(2) "Salary", the salary figure which appears on the registered professional school nurse's contract or employment agreement and as determined by the local school district's basic salary schedule and does not include supplements for extra duties.

168.700. 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Missouri Teaching Fellows Program".

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

4 (1) "Department", the Missouri department of higher education;

5 (2) "Eligible applicant"[,] :

6 (a) A high school senior **or student who is completing a secondary school education**
7 **in a home school setting**, who:

8 [(a)] a. Is a United States citizen;

9 [(b)] b. Has a cumulative grade point average ranking in the top ten percentile in [their]
10 **his or her** graduating class and scores in the top twenty percentile on either the ACT or SAT
11 assessment; or has a cumulative grade point average ranking in the top twenty percentile in
12 [their] **his or her** graduating class **or has achieved a GED test score corresponding to an**
13 **estimated national class rank in the top ten percent of graduating United States high school**
14 **seniors**, and scores in the top ten percentile of the ACT or SAT assessment;

15 [(c)] c. Upon graduation from high school **or passing the GED test**, attends a Missouri
16 higher education institution and attains a teaching certificate and either a [bachelors] **bachelor's**
17 or graduate degree with a cumulative grade point average of at least [three-point zero] **three and**
18 **twenty-five hundredths** on a four-point scale or equivalent;

19 [(d)] d. Signs an agreement with the department in which the applicant agrees to engage
20 in qualified employment upon graduation from a higher education institution for five years; and

21 [(e)] e. Upon graduation from the higher education institution, engages in qualified
22 employment; **or**

23 (b) A graduate of a Missouri public higher education institution who:

24 a. Has first attained a certificate of license to teach from the state board of
25 education under section 168.021 after August 28, 2009;

26 b. Has attained either a bachelor's degree or graduate degree with a cumulative
27 grade point average of at least three and twenty-five hundredths on a four-point scale, or
28 an equivalent;

29 c. Is hired as a teacher in a school district described in subdivision (3) of subsection
30 2 of this section; and

31 d. Signs an agreement with the department in which the applicant agrees to engage
32 in qualified employment for five years.

33 (3) "Qualified employment", employment as a teacher in a school located in a school
34 district that is not classified as accredited by the state board of education at the time the eligible
35 applicant signs their first contract to teach in such district. Preference in choosing schools to
36 receive participating teachers shall be given to schools in such school districts with a
37 higher-than-the-state-average of students eligible to receive a reduced lunch price under the
38 National School Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1751, et seq., as amended;

39 (4) "Teacher", any employee of a school district, regularly required to be certified under
40 laws relating to the certification of teachers, except superintendents and assistant superintendents
41 but including certified teachers who teach at the prekindergarten level within a prekindergarten
42 program in which no fees are charged to parents or guardians.

43 3. Within the limits of amounts appropriated therefor, the department shall, upon proper
44 verification to the department by an eligible applicant and the school district in which the
45 applicant is engaged in qualified employment, enter into a one-year contract with eligible
46 applicants to repay the interest and principal on the educational loans of the applicants or provide
47 a stipend to the applicant as provided in subsection 4 of this section. The department may enter
48 into subsequent one-year contracts with eligible applicants, not to total more than five such
49 contracts. The fifth one-year contract shall provide for a stipend to such applicants as provided
50 in subsection 4 of this section. If the school district becomes accredited at any time during which
51 the eligible applicant is teaching at a school under a contract entered into pursuant to this section,
52 nothing in this section shall preclude the department and the eligible applicant from entering into
53 subsequent contracts to teach within the school district. An eligible applicant who does not enter
54 into a contract with the department under the provisions of this subsection shall not be eligible
55 for repayment of educational loans or a stipend under the provisions of subsection 4 of this
56 section.

57 4. At the conclusion of each of the first four academic years that an eligible applicant
58 engages in qualified employment, up to one-fourth of the eligible applicant's educational loans,
59 not to exceed five thousand dollars per year, shall be repaid under terms provided in the contract.
60 For applicants without any educational loans, the applicant may receive a stipend of up to five
61 thousand dollars at the conclusion of each of the first four academic years that the eligible
62 applicant engages in qualified employment. At the conclusion of the fifth academic year that an
63 eligible applicant engages in qualified employment, a stipend in an amount equal to one thousand
64 dollars shall be granted to the eligible applicant. The maximum of five thousand dollars per year
65 and the stipend of one thousand dollars shall be adjusted annually by the same percentage as the
66 increase in the general price level as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
67 Consumers for the United States, or its successor index, as defined and officially recorded by the
68 United States Department of Labor or its successor agency. The amount of any repayment of
69 educational loans or the issuance of a stipend under this subsection shall not exceed the actual
70 cost of tuition, required fees, and room and board for the eligible applicant at the institution of
71 higher education from which the eligible applicant graduated.

72 5. The department shall maintain a Missouri teaching fellows program coordinator
73 position, the main responsibility of which shall be the identification, recruitment, and selection
74 of potential students meeting the requirements of [paragraph (b) of] subdivision (2) of subsection

75 2 of this section. In selecting potential students, the coordinator shall give preference to
76 applicants that represent a variety of racial backgrounds in order to ensure a diverse group of
77 eligible applicants.

78 6. The department shall promulgate rules to enforce the provisions of this section,
79 including, but not limited to, applicant eligibility, selection criteria, and the content of loan
80 repayment contracts. If the number of applicants exceeds the revenues available for loan
81 repayment or stipends, priority shall be to those applicants with the highest high school
82 grade-point average and highest scores on the ACT or SAT assessments.

83 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that
84 is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies
85 with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section
86 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers
87 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the
88 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the
89 grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2007, shall be
90 invalid and void.

91 8. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri Teaching Fellows Program
92 Fund". The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from
93 the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Private donations, federal
94 grants, and other funds provided for the implementation of this section shall be placed in the
95 Missouri teaching fellows program fund. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used
96 solely for the repayment of loans and the payment of stipends under the provisions of this
97 section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any moneys
98 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
99 revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
100 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the
101 fund.

102 9. Subject to appropriations, the general assembly shall include an amount necessary to
103 properly fund this section, not to exceed one million dollars in any fiscal year. The maximum
104 of one million dollars in any fiscal year shall be adjusted annually by the same percentage as the
105 increase in the general price level as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
106 Consumers for the United States, or its successor index, as defined and officially recorded by the
107 United States Department of Labor or its successor agency.

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