

# SENATE BILL No. 299

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-12-22.2.

**Synopsis:** Teacher recruitment and retention. Establishes a teacher recruitment and retention grant program administered by the state student assistance commission. Provides that the purpose of the program is to attract qualified teachers to those geographical areas of the state where a critical shortage of teachers exists and to retain the qualified teachers in teacher shortage areas by providing scholarships to persons working toward a master's degree in education or an educational specialist degree. Provides that a person awarded a scholarship under the grant program may receive the scholarship for not more than four school years. Provides that as a condition of participating in the program and receiving a scholarship, a teacher shall agree to employment as a licensed teacher in a school district located in a teacher shortage area for a period of at least three years.

**Effective:** July 1, 2001.

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January 11, 2001, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

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First Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2001)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2000 General Assembly.

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## SENATE BILL No. 299



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-22.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2001]:
- 4 **Chapter 22.2. Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant**
- 5 **Program**
- 6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "approved institution of higher**
- 7 **learning" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-12-21-3.**
- 8 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state**
- 9 **student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4.**
- 10 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the teacher**
- 11 **recruitment and retention grant fund established by section 5 of**
- 12 **this chapter.**
- 13 **Sec. 4. (a) The teacher recruitment and retention grant program**
- 14 **is established. The commission shall administer the program.**
- 15 **(b) The purpose of the program is to attract additional qualified**
- 16 **teachers to those geographical areas of the state where a critical**
- 17 **shortage of teachers exists and to retain the qualified teachers**



1 already serving as licensed teachers in teacher shortage areas by  
 2 making available scholarships to persons working toward a  
 3 master's degree in education or an educational specialist degree at  
 4 an approved institution of higher learning.

5 **Sec. 5. (a) The teacher recruitment and retention grant fund is**  
 6 **established to make awards authorized under this chapter to**  
 7 **eligible applicants.**

8 **(b) The fund consists of the following:**

9 **(1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.**

10 **(2) Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the state in**  
 11 **order to achieve the purposes of the fund.**

12 **(c) The fund shall be administered by the commission. The**  
 13 **expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the**  
 14 **fund.**

15 **(d) The fund shall be separate and distinct from other funds**  
 16 **administered by the commission, and money in the fund may not**  
 17 **be exchanged with or transferred to other funds.**

18 **(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not**  
 19 **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**  
 20 **manner as other public funds are invested. Interest that accrues**  
 21 **from those investments shall be deposited in the fund.**

22 **(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**  
 23 **revert to the state general fund.**

24 **Sec. 6. (a) An approved institution of higher learning in Indiana**  
 25 **that offers a master's degree in education or an educational**  
 26 **specialist degree may apply to the commission for participation in**  
 27 **the program.**

28 **(b) As part of the program, participating institutions shall**  
 29 **collaborate with the commission to identify, recruit, and place**  
 30 **teacher education graduates, from both within and outside the**  
 31 **state, in school districts located in areas of the state where a critical**  
 32 **shortage of teachers exists, as determined by the commission.**

33 **Sec. 7. (a) The commission shall provide grants from the fund to**  
 34 **participating institutions of higher learning for the purpose of**  
 35 **awarding scholarships to qualified persons pursuing a master's**  
 36 **degree in education or an educational specialist degree at the**  
 37 **institutions while rendering service as a licensed teacher in a school**  
 38 **district in a geographical area of the state where a critical shortage**  
 39 **of teachers exists.**

40 **(b) A scholarship awarded under this chapter shall be applied**  
 41 **to the total cost for tuition, books, materials, and fees at the**  
 42 **institution in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed an**

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1 amount equal to the highest total cost of tuition, books, materials,  
 2 and fees assessed by a state institution of higher learning during  
 3 that school year. A teacher who relocates to Indiana from another  
 4 state in order to participate in the program shall be classified as a  
 5 resident of Indiana for tuition purposes.

6 (c) To qualify for a scholarship under this chapter, a person  
 7 must:

- 8 (1) be admitted to an approved institution of higher learning  
 9 as a full-time or part-time student pursuing a master's degree  
 10 in education or an educational specialist degree;
- 11 (2) agree, in writing, to the employment requirements under  
 12 section 12 of this chapter; and
- 13 (3) meet any criteria established by the commission.

14 Sec. 8. (a) Persons awarded scholarships under the grant  
 15 program established by this chapter may receive the scholarships  
 16 for not more than four (4) school years. However, the maximum  
 17 number of scholarships that may be made to a student may not  
 18 exceed the length of time required to complete the number of  
 19 academic hours necessary to obtain a master's degree in education  
 20 or an educational specialist degree.

21 (b) Scholarships under the grant program may not be based  
 22 upon an applicant's eligibility for financial aid.

23 Sec. 9. In addition to a scholarship awarded under this chapter,  
 24 an eligible person relocating to a geographical area of the state  
 25 where a critical shortage of teachers exists, as determined by the  
 26 commission, to participate in the grant program under this chapter  
 27 is eligible for reimbursement from the fund for the person's  
 28 moving expenses to the critical teacher shortage area. The  
 29 commission shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of  
 30 the relocation expense reimbursement component of the grant  
 31 program under this chapter.

32 Sec. 10. The commission may use money in the fund for  
 33 professional development and support services as may be necessary  
 34 for the retention of teachers participating in the program in those  
 35 geographical areas of the state where a critical shortage of teachers  
 36 exists.

37 Sec. 11. A person participating in the program who fails to  
 38 complete a program of study that will enable that person to obtain  
 39 a master's degree in education or educational specialist degree is  
 40 liable to the commission for the sum of all awards made to that  
 41 person under the program, plus interest accruing at the current  
 42 federal Stafford Loan rate at the time the person abrogates the

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1 person's participation in the program.

2 **Sec. 12. (a) As a condition for participation in the program, a**  
 3 **teacher shall agree to employment as a licensed teacher in a school**  
 4 **district located in a geographical area of the state where a critical**  
 5 **shortage of teachers exists, for a period of at least three (3) years,**  
 6 **which shall include those years of service rendered while obtaining**  
 7 **the master's degree in education or educational specialist degree.**

8 **(b) Service rendered by a participant as a licensed teacher in a**  
 9 **school district in a geographical critical teacher shortage area**  
 10 **before that teacher becomes a participant in the program may not**  
 11 **be considered to have fulfilled the employment commitment**  
 12 **required under this section.**

13 **(c) A person failing to comply with the employment commitment**  
 14 **in any required school year is immediately in breach of contract**  
 15 **and becomes liable immediately to the commission for the sum of**  
 16 **all scholarships awarded and relocation expenses granted to that**  
 17 **person, less one-third (1/3) of the amount of that sum for each year**  
 18 **that service was rendered, plus interest accruing at the current**  
 19 **federal Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs. However,**  
 20 **the commission may defer any repayments required by this section**  
 21 **for the person's failure to comply with the employment**  
 22 **commitment if there is no employment position immediately**  
 23 **available upon the teacher's obtaining of the master's degree in**  
 24 **education or educational specialist degree. After the period of the**  
 25 **deferral, the person shall begin or resume the required teaching**  
 26 **duties or shall become liable to the board under this subsection.**

27 **Sec. 13. (a) The commission shall maintain complete and**  
 28 **accurate records in implementing the grant program, including the**  
 29 **following:**

30 **(1) The number and amount of scholarships awarded under**  
 31 **this chapter.**

32 **(2) The number of persons completing a master's degree in**  
 33 **education or an educational specialist degree under the**  
 34 **program.**

35 **(3) The number of individuals who fulfill the employment**  
 36 **requirements under this chapter.**

37 **(b) Each participating institution shall provide the commission**  
 38 **with information concerning the following:**

39 **(1) The awarding of scholarships under this chapter.**

40 **(2) The academic progress made by each recipient of a**  
 41 **scholarship under this chapter.**

42 **(3) Other pertinent information requested by the commission.**

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1           **Sec. 14. The commission may permit an approved institution of**  
2 **higher learning to act as its agent in accepting applications from,**  
3 **determining eligibility for, and making awards to eligible**  
4 **applicants of the approved institution of higher learning. The**  
5 **institution of higher learning shall provide to the commission on a**  
6 **timely basis any information, reports, and accounting the**  
7 **commission requires.**  
8           **Sec. 15. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2**  
9 **necessary to carry out this chapter, including rules governing the**  
10 **enforcement of any employment requirements and repayment**  
11 **requirements.**

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