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HOUSE BILL 25

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

J. Paul Taylor

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CREATING A STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED. --

A. In order to encourage individuals to enter the teaching profession and to retain teachers in New Mexico, the commission on higher education shall establish and administer a student teacher scholarship program.

B. The commission on higher education shall set forth explicit guidelines for administration of the student teacher scholarship program, including guidelines to:

- (1) develop standardized methods to identify eligible scholarship recipients;**

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1 (2) distribute money from the student teacher
2 scholarship fund to state board of education-approved teacher
3 training institutions;

4 (3) develop criteria for selection of
5 scholarship recipients, which shall include academic
6 performance, campus involvement, letters of recommendation and
7 personal commitment to the teaching profession;

8 (4) pay full tuition for scholarship
9 recipients for the semesters in which they are student
10 teaching;

11 (5) verify that scholarship recipients are
12 employed as full-time teachers in public or state board of
13 education-approved private school settings in New Mexico for
14 at least one year after completion of student teaching;

15 (6) provide for the repayment within one year
16 of all scholarship funds granted a scholarship recipient if
17 that recipient does not comply with the provisions of
18 Paragraph (5) of this subsection; and

19 (7) ensure that recipients comply with all
20 rules adopted by the commission on higher education for the
21 scholarship program.

22 Section 2. STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP FUND CREATED. --

23 The "student teacher scholarship fund" is created in the state
24 treasury. Money in the fund shall not revert to the general
25 fund at the end of a fiscal year. Money appropriated to the

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underscored material = new
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1 fund or accruing to it through gifts, grants, bequests and
2 devices shall be deposited in the fund. The fund shall be
3 invested as other state funds are invested and income from
4 investment of the fund shall be credited to the fund. Money
5 in the fund is appropriated to the commission on higher
6 education to carry out the purposes of the student teacher
7 scholarship program. Disbursements from the fund shall be
8 made upon warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and
9 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the executive
10 director of the commission on higher education or his
11 designee. The commission shall use no more than three percent
12 of the money in the fund for administration. The remaining
13 money in the fund shall be used to carry out the student
14 teacher scholarship program.

15 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- Seven hundred thousand
16 dollars (\$700,000) is appropriated from the general fund to
17 the student teacher scholarship fund for expenditure in fiscal
18 year 2002 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the
19 provisions of Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or
20 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
21 shall not revert to the general fund.