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HOUSE BILL 77

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2000**

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. 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 promulgate rules to establish and administer a student teacher scholarship program.

B. In establishing the program, the commission on higher education shall:

(1) develop standardized methods to identify eligible student teachers and to distribute money to accredited teacher training institutions;

(2) verify that recipients are employed as full-time teachers in a public school setting for at least

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1 one year after completion of student teaching;

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

6 (4) pay full tuition for recipients for the  
7 semesters in which they are student teaching; and

8 (5) ensure that recipients comply with all  
9 rules adopted by the commission for the scholarship program.

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

11 The "student teacher scholarship fund" is created in the  
12 state treasury. Money in the fund shall not revert at the  
13 end of a fiscal year. Money appropriated to the fund or  
14 accruing to it through gifts, grants, bequests and devices  
15 shall be deposited in the fund. The fund shall be invested  
16 as other state funds are invested and income from investment  
17 of the fund shall be credited to the fund. Money in the fund  
18 is appropriated to the commission on higher education to  
19 carry out the purposes of Section 1 of this act.

20 Disbursements from the fund shall be made upon warrants drawn  
21 by the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to  
22 vouchers signed by the executive director of the commission  
23 on higher education or his designee. The commission shall  
24 use no more than three percent of the money in the fund for  
25 administration. The remaining money in the fund shall be  
used to carry out the provisions of Section 1 of this act.

Section 3. APPROPRIATION.--Seven hundred thousand

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1 dollars (\$700,000) is appropriated from the general fund to  
2 the student teacher scholarship fund for expenditure in  
3 fiscal year 2001 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the  
4 provisions of Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or  
5 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year  
6 shall not revert to the general fund.

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