

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 3581 as follows:

1.2 Page 1, after line 7, insert:

1.3 "Section 1. **[136A.1273] TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

1.4 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A program is established within the Office of Higher
1.5 Education to provide college scholarships to highly qualified Minnesota high school graduates
1.6 to earn a four-year education degree from a state college or university. The program shall
1.7 be known as the "teacher education scholarship program."

1.8 Subd. 2. **Purpose.** The teacher education college scholarship program is intended to
1.9 recruit, educate, train, and mentor highly qualified high school graduates to become licensed
1.10 educators in the state. A highly qualified candidate shall demonstrate a strong moral character
1.11 and a commitment to community and public service. In addition, candidates should possess
1.12 advanced critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and interpersonal skills. The
1.13 program shall strive to include persons from groups that are currently underrepresented in
1.14 the teacher workforce. Program participants shall represent all regions of the state.

1.15 Subd. 3. **Program eligibility.** To be eligible to participate in the program, a candidate
1.16 must:

1.17 (1) qualify for resident tuition, as defined in section 135A.043;

1.18 (2) submit to a thorough background check, including searches by local, state, and federal
1.19 agencies, to disclose the existence of any criminal record or conduct which would adversely
1.20 affect the eligibility of the applicant as a teacher; and

1.21 (3) be admitted to a state university.

1.22 Subd. 4. **Application; program administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish
1.23 and publish an application for participation in the scholarship program no later than

2.1 November 1, 2022. For each academic year, the commissioner shall establish the deadline
2.2 for applicants to apply for a scholarship. The commissioner must publish the application
2.3 deadline at least 12 weeks prior to the deadline.

2.4 (b) The commissioner shall establish the guidelines and programming necessary for
2.5 implementing and administering the program, including providing summer education and
2.6 leadership skills training to participants.

2.7 Subd. 5. **Nominations.** High school principals may nominate and recommend qualified
2.8 candidates to participate in the program.

2.9 Subd. 6. **Selection committee; membership.** (a) The commissioner shall convene a
2.10 selection committee to review applications and recommend candidates for participation in
2.11 the program.

2.12 (b) The selection committee shall consist of:

2.13 (1) a teacher employed by a charter or private school, appointed by the commissioner;

2.14 (2) the executive director of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board;

2.15 (3) two citizen members who are part of a parent advocacy organization;

2.16 (4) two representatives of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators including
2.17 one administrator of a school located outside of the ten-county metropolitan area;

2.18 (5) three representative of the Education Minnesota; including one from a school located
2.19 outside of the ten-county metropolitan area; and

2.20 (6) two designees of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and
2.21 Universities with experience in teacher training and education.

2.22 Subd. 7. **Selection process.** (a) The commissioner shall award up to 125 scholarships
2.23 each academic year beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year to students that the selection
2.24 committee recommends to the commissioner. The commissioner shall strive to provide
2.25 opportunities to participate in the program to applicants from groups that are currently
2.26 underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce and who represent the state's increasingly
2.27 diverse population. The commissioner must ensure that scholarships are awarded to students
2.28 from all regions of the state.

2.29 (b) The commissioner shall establish deadlines for the nomination of candidates and the
2.30 selection of participants. For the initial cohort of program participants, the selection
2.31 committee shall make recommendations to the commissioner no later than January 15, 2023.
2.32 The commissioner shall select and notify candidates of their selection to participate in the

3.1 initial cohort no later than February 15, 2023. The selection committee shall give preference
3.2 to applicants from groups that are currently underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce
3.3 and who represent the state's increasingly diverse population.

3.4 Subd. 8. **Participant benefits.** Program participants are entitled to the following benefits:

3.5 (1) free tuition and fees at a Minnesota state university for up to eight semesters;

3.6 (2) free teachers skills training;

3.7 (3) supplemental teacher and leadership skills training; and

3.8 (4) a stipend to provide for living expenses while participating in the program.

3.9 Subd. 9. **Participant obligations.** (a) To enter the program, participants must sign a
3.10 contract agreeing to fulfill the program's requirements, to fulfill the employment obligation
3.11 under subdivision 10, and to reimburse the state for failing to complete the program without
3.12 being excused from the program by the commissioner. The contract shall also include
3.13 acknowledgment from the participant that the participant was advised of the minimum
3.14 selection standards to become a licensed teacher in Minnesota.

3.15 (b) To remain in the program, participants must:

3.16 (1) continue to meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the program established
3.17 in subdivision 3;

3.18 (2) remain in good academic standing and make timely progress toward completion of
3.19 an education degree as provided for under paragraph (c);

3.20 (3) complete the required teacher skills training;

3.21 (4) participate in leadership and teacher specific training provided by the commissioner
3.22 each summer;

3.23 (5) pass the Minnesota teacher licensure exam; and

3.24 (6) actively seek employment as a teacher in Minnesota until employed as a teacher.

3.25 (c) A program participant must be enrolled in a education degree program for at least
3.26 12 credits per semester at a state university in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
3.27 system. A participant must complete their degree in four academic years from the date they
3.28 enter the program, unless the commissioner approves the participant's request for an extension
3.29 or grants an exception to the policy.

3.30 Subd. 10. **Employment obligation.** (a) Beginning within six months of completion of
3.31 the program, a participant must be employed full-time in Minnesota as a teacher.

4.1 (b) A participant must remain continuously employed full-time as a teacher in Minnesota
 4.2 for six years after completion of the program.

4.3 (c) The commissioner shall annually verify with the board that program graduates who
 4.4 have not fulfilled the total employment obligation are employed as a teacher.

4.5 (d) The commissioner may approve, on a case-by-case basis, employment in other teacher
 4.6 related professions for program graduates to satisfy their employment obligation. When the
 4.7 commissioner approves a program graduate's request under this paragraph, the person must
 4.8 annually verify, in a form and manner specified by the commissioner, that the graduate is
 4.9 employed in a position that fulfills the employment obligation.

4.10 Subd. 11. **Failure to complete degree or satisfy the employment obligation.** If a
 4.11 program participant fails to earn their degree in the time provided, otherwise fails to meet
 4.12 the requirements of the program without being excused from the program by the
 4.13 commissioner, or fails to satisfy the employment obligation, the commissioner must convert
 4.14 the amount of state funds expended on the participant's education and stipend into a student
 4.15 loan and collect from the participant the total amount paid plus interest at a rate established
 4.16 according to section 270C.40."

4.17 Page 10, after line 17, insert:

4.18 "Sec. 6. **APPROPRIATION: TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

4.19 \$16,400,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
 4.20 of the Office of Higher Education to establish and administer the teacher education
 4.21 scholarship program in section 1 of this act. The commissioner shall use a portion of this
 4.22 appropriation to promote the program to students from groups that are currently
 4.23 underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce and who represent the state's increasingly
 4.24 diverse population."

4.25 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

4.26 Amend the title accordingly