

File Number: H.F. 1409
Version: As introduced

Date: March 6, 2017

Authors: Nornes and others

Subject: Scholarships for teacher candidates of color

Analyst: Sean Williams, 651-296-5053

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

H.F. 1409 establishes a program at the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to provide scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year to teacher candidates of color. The bill additionally amends an existing OHE program that provides stipends to student teachers in teacher shortage areas. The bill would permit teacher candidates of color to receive stipends through that program, even if they are not teaching in shortage areas or regions.

Section

1 Teacher candidates of color scholarships.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a scholarship program for teacher candidates of color with financial needs.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Sets eligibility requirements for the program. To be eligible, a person must:

- ▶ Have been admitted to a teacher preparation program.
- ▶ Self-identify to the teacher preparation program as a member of a population unrepresented among licensed teachers relative to the diversity of students.
- ▶ Make satisfactory academic progress towards completing the program.
- ▶ Be a resident student according to the criteria used by state financial aid programs.
- ▶ Have a gross family income of \$125,000 or less.

Section

Subd. 3. Amount. Requires OHE to determine a sliding scale scholarship amount based upon the amount of available funding and the gross family incomes of applicants. The maximum scholarship per year is \$10,000, distributed up to \$5,000 per academic term. The minimum scholarship must be no less than \$1,000. Scholarships must be prorated per credit for part-time study.

Subd. 4. Distribution. Requires that the scholarship be paid directly to the teacher preparation institution on behalf of the candidate. Requires the institution to inform OHE of the candidate's name, racial and ethnic identity, gender, licensure area sought, and full- or part-time status.

2 Grants to student teachers in shortage areas. Amends an existing program that provides grants to student teachers in shortage areas.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Adds a requirement that students have adjusted gross incomes of \$125,000 or less. Permits a student who is not interested in teaching in a high needs subject area or region to be eligible for a stipend if that individual identifies as belonging to underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

Subd. 1a. Definitions. Defines "underrepresented racial or ethnic group" as a racial or ethnic group in which the percentage of Minnesota teachers of that group is lower than the percentage of Minnesota students of the group.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Removes an eligibility requirement that a teacher's preparation program result in a license that enables the teacher to teach in a high needs subject area or region. Instead requires a teacher to either be pursuing licensure in a high needs subject area, identify as interested in teaching in a high needs region, or identify as belonging to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

Subd. 3. Administration; repayment. (a) Requires that program guidelines include repayment responsibilities for students who do not complete a student teaching program or who leave Minnesota to teach in another state during the first year after student teaching.

(b) Limits stipends to at most \$7,500; requires that stipends be based on the financial needs of applicants.

(c) Stipulates that the percentage of awards for students who identify as belonging to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group must be greater than or equal to the percentage of students of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups. Permits OHE to distribute awards to student teachers in high needs subject areas or regions if the percentage cannot be met due to a lack of qualifying candidates from underrepresented groups.

3 Ongoing appropriation. Stipulates that funds appropriated in the 2016 omnibus supplemental budget bill for grants to student teachers in shortage areas may only be used for the program as it existed in 2016. The funds appropriated in 2016 are available until the end of fiscal year 2019. Because the bill amends the statutory language of the program, this section requires that any remaining be spent on the program as it existed in 2016.

Section

4 Appropriations.

Subd. 1. Teachers of color scholarships. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for teacher of color scholarships. Stipulates that five percent of the appropriation may be used for administration of the program, and that funds appropriated in the first year of the biennium are available in the second year.

Subd. 2. Grants to student teachers. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for grants to student teachers. Stipulates that five percent of the appropriation may be used for administration of the program, and that funds appropriated in the first year of the biennium are available in the second year.