

**Subject** Higher Education: Teachers of Color

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## Overview

This bill amends the existing teacher shortage loan repayment program to, among other things, increase award maximums and dedicate a percentage of program funds to applicants who belong to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group. It also makes permanent the aspiring Minnesota teachers of color pilot program created in 2021, with certain changes.

The bill also contains appropriations for the teacher shortage loan repayment program, aspiring Minnesota teachers of color program, and the underrepresented student teacher grant program.

## Summary

Section	Description
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<b>1</b>	<b>Teacher shortage loan repayment program: program established; administration.</b>
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Requires the commissioner to reserve a percentage of the program's funds for applicants who belong to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group. Prioritizes certain applicants if program appropriations are insufficient to make awards to all those eligible, and imposes other administrative requirements.

Under current law, a person can be eligible for a disbursement under this program in three ways: belonging to a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce, teaching in a rural school district, or teaching in a license shortage area as defined by section 136A.1275, subdivision 1, paragraph (b).

<b>2</b>	<b>Teacher shortage loan repayment program: amount of loan repayment.</b>
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Increases award maximums for the program from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and to \$3,000 for an applicant qualifying under two or more of the eligibility criteria.

Section	Description
3	<p><b>Aspiring Minnesota teachers of color scholarship pilot program.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Scholarship pilot program established.</b> Removes the term “pilot,” as the bill makes this program permanent (see section 5).</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Eligibility.</b> Expands eligibility to include those enrolled in associate’s degree programs in early childhood education, education, or special education.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Scholarship award amount.</b> Limits the current \$10,000 annual award maximum to those enrolled in baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate programs. For those in associate degree programs, set an annual award maximum of \$6,000. Updates terminology to new federal standards.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Administration.</b> No changes.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4a. Account established.</b> Establishes a new account in the special revenue fund to continuously hold appropriations for this program.</p> <p><b>Subd. 5. Service expectation.</b> No changes.</p> <p><b>Subd. 6. Report.</b> No changes.</p>
4	<p><b>Appropriations.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Aspiring Minnesota teachers of color scholarship program.</b> Appropriates \$18.5 million per year for transfer to the dedicated special revenue fund account for this program. Sets a base of \$10 million for FY26 and later.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Grants to underrepresented student teachers.</b> Appropriates \$2.5 million per year for this program. Sets a base of \$3 million for FY26 and later.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Teacher shortage loan repayment program.</b> Appropriates \$8.25 million per year for transfer to the dedicated special revenue fund account for this program. Requires at least \$8 million per year to be dedicated to applicants belonging to underrepresented racial or ethnic groups.</p>
5	<p><b>Revisor instruction.</b></p> <p>Instructs the revisor to codify the aspiring Minnesota teacher of color scholarship program in Minnesota Statutes.</p>



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