

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1434

To provide grants to teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education to award scholarships for teachers to receive a graduate level degree.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2005

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide grants to teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education to award scholarships for teachers to receive a graduate level degree.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Master Teacher Schol-
5 arship Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Programs in title II of the Higher Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) address

1 improving the quality of the teaching workforce and
2 holding institutions of higher education accountable
3 for preparing teachers. However, States are still
4 finding it difficult to provide high-quality teachers in
5 the areas of mathematics and science and for sec-
6 ondary schools.

7 (2) Under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), as
9 amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
10 (Public Law 107–110, 115 Stat. 1425), States are
11 required to ensure that all teachers teaching in core
12 academic subjects within the State are highly quali-
13 fied by not later than the end of the 2005–2006
14 school year. Yet schools in rural areas and high-pov-
15 erty schools have trouble attracting and retaining
16 such teachers.

17 (3) Teacher retention is at the main root of
18 teacher shortages, and recruitment initiatives alone
19 will not solve this problem.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) **ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.**—
23 The term “eligible local educational agency” means
24 a local educational agency that serves a school that
25 qualifies under section 465(a)(2)(A) of the Higher

1 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)(2)(A))
2 for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who
3 teach in such schools.

4 (2) ELIGIBLE TEACHER.—The term “eligible
5 teacher” means a teacher who is employed by the el-
6 igible local educational agency included in the part-
7 nership with the teacher preparation program and
8 is—

9 (A) an elementary school or secondary
10 school special education teacher; or

11 (B) a middle school or secondary school
12 teacher who teaches in the area of mathematics,
13 science, or foreign languages.

14 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Education.

16 (4) TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM.—The
17 term “teacher preparation program” means a school
18 of education program at an institution of higher
19 education that provides courses of study leading to
20 a graduate degree.

21 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
23 to teacher preparation programs for the purpose of ena-
24 bling the teacher preparation programs to award scholar-

1 ships to assist eligible teachers in obtaining a graduate
2 level degree from the teacher preparation program.

3 (b) APPLICATION.—Each teacher preparation pro-
4 gram applying for a grant shall submit, in partnership
5 with an eligible local educational agency, an application
6 to the Secretary describing—

7 (1) the partnership between the teacher prepa-
8 ration program and the eligible local educational
9 agency; and

10 (2) how the teacher preparation program is de-
11 signed to meet the needs of the teachers partici-
12 pating in the program and the partnering local edu-
13 cational agency, including mentoring and alignment
14 of the teacher preparation program with the high
15 academic standards that students of the State where
16 the teacher preparation program is located are ex-
17 pected to meet.

18 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each teacher preparation
20 program receiving a grant under this Act shall use
21 the grant funds to award scholarships to eligible
22 teachers pursuing a graduate degree in the area of
23 mathematics, science, foreign language, or special
24 education.

1 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Each teacher
2 preparation program receiving a grant under this
3 Act may use not more than 1 percent of the grant
4 funds—

5 (A) to administer the scholarship program;

6 (B) to recruit teachers to participate in the
7 program; and

8 (C) to assist in designing the program to
9 meet the needs of the teacher and school.

10 (d) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Each individual awarded a
11 scholarship under this Act shall use the scholarship funds
12 only to pay for the tuition and fees associated with obtain-
13 ing a graduate level degree.

14 **SEC. 5. SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT.**

15 Each eligible teacher awarded a scholarship under
16 this Act shall enter into an agreement with the eligible
17 local educational agency and the teacher preparation pro-
18 gram, under which—

19 (1) the teacher preparation program agrees to
20 award a scholarship of a total of not less than
21 \$5,000 and not more than \$7,000 to the eligible
22 teacher; and

23 (2) the eligible teacher agrees—

24 (A) to teach for 5 years after receiving the
25 graduate level degree, in the school the eligible

1 teacher previously taught or in a school des-
2 ignated by the eligible local educational agency;

3 (B) to mentor a novice teacher in the eligi-
4 ble local educational agency for 2 years; and

5 (C) to repay a pro rata portion of the
6 scholarship funds received if the teacher fails to
7 comply with subparagraph (A).

8 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this Act \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and each of the
11 5 succeeding fiscal years.

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