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H.B. 667
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Lightbody

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship Program to award four-year scholarships for up to \$7,500 per year to qualifying high school seniors and other qualifying employees.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education and Department of Education to oversee the program, including developing the application process and repayment procedures for failure to meet program requirements.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship Program

The bill establishes the Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to eligible high school seniors and district employees who commit to teach in a “qualifying school” operated by their school district after becoming a teacher. If a scholarship recipient does not fulfill that obligation, the scholarship is converted into a loan.¹

Specifically, the Chancellor of Higher Education and the Department of Education must award a four-year scholarship for up to \$7,500 per year to an eligible applicant. To receive a scholarship, the applicant must commit to teaching in a “qualifying school” for at least four years within six years of completing a teacher training program. The teacher training program may be at a state institution of higher education or a private, nonprofit college or university in Ohio.²

¹ R.C. 3333.393(B) and (F).

² R.C. 3333.393(B).

Under the bill, a “qualifying school” is a school building:

1. That is identified as “high need” by the Chancellor;
2. Where at least 50% of the students are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch; and
3. That is operated by the same school district from which the scholarship recipient graduated high school or was employed.³

Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship under the program, an applicant must be either:

1. A high school senior who:
 - a. Received a high school diploma; and
 - b. Was eligible for a free or reduced price lunch for all four years of high school.
2. An individual who:
 - a. Is employed at a school where at least 50% of the students are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch; and
 - b. Holds any of the following:
 - i. An educational aide permit;
 - ii. An educational paraprofessional license; or
 - iii. A substitute teacher license, including a nonrenewable temporary substitute teacher license issued under S.B. 1 of the 134th General Assembly.⁴

Application process

The bill requires the Chancellor and the Department to develop an application process for awarding scholarships under the program, including appointing a highly qualified and diverse application committee to assist in the selection of scholarship recipients.⁵ As part of that process, the Chancellor must require that all applicants file a statement of service status in compliance with continuing law, if applicable. Additionally, the Chancellor must require that all applicants have not been convicted of, plead guilty to, or adjudicated a delinquent child for any violation listed under continuing law.⁶

Promissory note

The bill requires any scholarship recipient, or the recipient’s parent if the recipient is under the age of 18, to sign a promissory note payable to the state if the recipient either does

³ R.C. 3333.393(A)(4).

⁴ R.C. 3333.393(A), (B), and (D).

⁵ R.C. 3333.393(C).

⁶ R.C. 3333.393(E). Also see R.C. 3345.32, not in the bill.

not satisfy the four-year teaching commitment within six years of completing the teacher training program or if the scholarship is terminated.⁷

The bill requires that the amount payable under the note be the amount of total scholarships accepted by the recipient plus 10% interest accrued annually beginning on the first day of September after the recipient's graduation from the teacher training program or immediately after termination of the scholarship. The Chancellor must determine the repayment period under the note. The note must stipulate that the obligation to make payments is canceled if the recipient completes the four-year teaching commitment, dies, becomes totally and permanently disabled, or is unable to complete the commitment as a result of a reduction in force at the recipient's school.⁸

The bill requires that the repayment of the principal and interest be deferred while the recipient is enrolled in an approved teaching program, while the recipient is seeking employment to fulfill the teaching commitment, for a period of no more than six months, or while the recipient is engaged in teaching in a "qualifying" school.⁹

During the six-year period following the recipient's graduation from an approved teaching program, the bill requires the Chancellor to deduct 25% of the outstanding balance that may be converted to a loan for each year the recipient teaches at a qualifying school.¹⁰

For any scholarship that is converted to a loan, the bill specifies that the Chancellor and the Attorney General must collect payment on the loan in accordance with continuing law.¹¹

Termination of scholarship

The bill permits the Department and the Chancellor to terminate a scholarship, in which case the scholarship must be converted to a loan to be repaid as described above.¹² A scholarship is considered "terminated" if a recipient withdraws from school or fails to meet standards as determined by the Department and the Chancellor.¹³

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$25 million in each of FY 2022 and FY 2023 to the Grow Your Own Teacher Program.¹⁴

⁷ R.C. 3333.394(A).

⁸ R.C. 3333.394(A).

⁹ R.C. 3333.394(B).

¹⁰ R.C. 3333.394(C).

¹¹ R.C. 3333.394(F). Also see R.C. 131.02, not in the bill.

¹² R.C. 3333.394(D).

¹³ R.C. 3333.394(E).

¹⁴ Sections 2, 3, and 4.

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 05-12-22 |
