

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 47—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PREFILED JANUARY 21, 1999

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S STUDY OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE)

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Provides for establishment of program for recruitment and professional development of teachers. (BDR 34-325)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the department of education to establish a program for the recruitment and professional development of teachers; providing for the partial repayment of student loans of certain licensed teachers; providing for the reimbursement of certain costs incurred by teachers in obtaining endorsements in certain fields of specialization; authorizing the board of regents to administer a program of financial aid for students who are enrolled in teaching programs; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE
AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
- 2 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.
- 3 **Sec. 2.** *The department shall establish a program for the recruitment*
- 4 *and professional development of teachers to encourage licensed teachers*
- 5 *to:*
- 6 *1. Teach in areas of this state in which a shortage of teachers exists.*
- 7 *2. Obtain an endorsement in a field of specialization where a*
- 8 *shortage of teachers exists.*
- 9 **Sec. 3.** *The program established by the department pursuant to*
- 10 *section 2 of this act must be designed to:*

1 1. Offer an equitable opportunity for all teachers to participate in the
2 program.

3 2. Recruit teachers for participation in the program. The recruitment
4 must include, without limitation:

5 (a) Publication of information regarding the program to provide
6 repayment of student loans pursuant to section 4 of this act and the
7 program for the reimbursement of costs pursuant to section 5 of this act
8 to:

9 (1) Students who are enrolled in institutions of higher education;

10 (2) Organizations that include students who wish to become
11 teachers;

12 (3) Organizations that represent licensed educational personnel;
13 and

14 (4) The licensed educational personnel in the public schools in this
15 state.

16 (b) Methods to encourage pupils who are enrolled in high schools to
17 enter the field of teaching, including, without limitation, pupils who are
18 of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds and pupils who are
19 disadvantaged, economically or otherwise. The department shall work in
20 cooperation with:

21 (1) The boards of trustees of the school districts of this state to
22 determine the most effective methods to identify such pupils.

23 (2) The board of regents to recruit pupils into the program to
24 provide loans pursuant to sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act, to
25 students who are enrolled in programs of the University and Community
26 College System of Nevada that provide courses of study and training for
27 the education of teachers.

28 **Sec. 4. 1. The department shall:**

29 (a) Work annually in cooperation with the boards of trustees of the
30 school districts to designate areas in this state in which a shortage of
31 teachers exists.

32 (b) Assist licensed teachers in obtaining employment within the areas
33 designated pursuant to paragraph (a).

34 (c) Maintain a list available for public inspection that contains the
35 areas designated pursuant to paragraph (a).

36 (d) To the extent that money is available for the program by legislative
37 appropriation or otherwise, administer a program for the repayment of
38 student loans on behalf of eligible licensed teachers who teach in public
39 schools that are located in areas of this state in which a shortage of
40 teachers exists.

41 2. Regardless of whether he attended an institution of higher
42 education in this state, a teacher is eligible for the repayment of student
43 loans pursuant to this section if he:

- 1 (a) Submits an application on a form provided by the department;
- 2 (b) Holds a current license to teach issued pursuant to chapter 391 of
- 3 NRS; and
- 4 (c) Teaches full time in a public school for at least one full school year
- 5 in an area of the state designated pursuant to subsection 1 as an area in
- 6 this state in which a shortage of teachers exists.
- 7 3. Repayments made pursuant to this section must not exceed \$5,000
- 8 for each year the applicant teaches full time in a public school in a
- 9 designated area in this state.

10 **Sec. 5. The department shall:**

- 11 1. Work annually in cooperation with the boards of trustees of the
- 12 school districts to identify fields of specialization where a shortage of
- 13 teachers exists.
- 14 2. Assist licensed teachers in obtaining an endorsement in a field of
- 15 specialization identified pursuant to subsection 1.
- 16 3. Maintain a list available for public inspection that contains the
- 17 fields of specialization identified pursuant to subsection 1.
- 18 4. To the extent that money is available for the program by legislative
- 19 appropriation or otherwise, administer a program pursuant to which a
- 20 teacher who holds a current license to teach issued pursuant to chapter
- 21 391 of NRS may submit an application on a form provided by the
- 22 department for reimbursement of the costs incurred by the teacher in
- 23 obtaining an endorsement in a field of specialization. The reimbursement
- 24 must not exceed an amount equal to the actual verified costs incurred by
- 25 a teacher in obtaining the endorsement or \$2,000, whichever is less.

26 **Sec. 6. 1. The department shall:**

- 27 (a) Prepare an annual report that includes:
- 28 (1) The number of teachers who received money for repayment of
- 29 student loans pursuant to section 4 of this act and the amount of money
- 30 that was provided for each teacher;
- 31 (2) The number of teachers who received money for reimbursement
- 32 of costs pursuant to section 5 of this act and the amount of money that
- 33 was provided for each teacher; and
- 34 (3) An evaluation of the success of the programs administered by the
- 35 department pursuant to sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.
- 36 (b) On or before December 31 of each year, submit a copy of the report
- 37 required by paragraph (a) to the director of the legislative counsel bureau
- 38 for transmission to:
- 39 (1) In an even-numbered year, the next regular session of the
- 40 legislature.
- 41 (2) In an odd-numbered year, the legislative commission.
- 42 (c) Adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 6,
- 43 inclusive, of this act, including, without limitation, the process for

1 *submission of an application pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of this act and*
2 *the necessary contents of each application.*

3 *2. The department may:*

4 *(a) Apply for federal grants of money available for the programs that it*
5 *administers pursuant to sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act, if any.*

6 *(b) Expend not more than 5 percent of all money appropriated to the*
7 *department to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this*
8 *act to establish and administer the programs required by those sections.*

9 **Sec. 7.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the
10 provisions set forth as sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act.

11 **Sec. 8. 1.** *The board of regents may administer, directly or through*
12 *a designated officer or employee of the system, a program to provide*
13 *loans for fees, books and living expenses to students who are enrolled in*
14 *programs of the system that provide courses of study and training for the*
15 *education of teachers.*

16 *2. Each student to whom such a loan is made must:*

17 *(a) Have been a bona fide resident of this state for at least 6 months*
18 *before his matriculation in the system;*

19 *(b) At the time the loan is made, be enrolled in a program of the system*
20 *to become a licensed teacher;*

21 *(c) Fulfill all requirements for classification as a full-time student*
22 *showing progression towards completion of the program; and*

23 *(d) Maintain at least a 2.00 grade-point average in each class and at*
24 *least a 2.75 overall grade-point average, on a 4.0 grading scale.*

25 *3. Each such loan must be made upon the following terms:*

26 *(a) All loans must bear interest at 8 percent per annum beginning the*
27 *date when the student receives the loan.*

28 *(b) Each student who receives a loan shall repay the loan with interest*
29 *after the termination of his education for which the loan is made unless*
30 *the amount owed is reduced pursuant to section 10 of this act. The loan*
31 *must be repaid in monthly installments over the period allowed with the*
32 *first installment due 1 year after the date of the termination of his*
33 *education for which the loan is made. The amounts of the installments*
34 *must not be less than \$50 and may be calculated to allow a smaller*
35 *payment at the beginning of the period for repayment, with each*
36 *succeeding payment gradually increasing so that the total amount due*
37 *will be paid within the period of repayment. The period for repayment of*
38 *the loans must be:*

39 *(1) Five years for loans which total less than \$10,000.*

40 *(2) Eight years for loans which total \$10,000 or more, but less than*
41 *\$20,000.*

42 *(3) Ten years for loans which total \$20,000 or more.*

1 **4.** *A delinquency charge may be assessed on an installment that is*
2 *delinquent 10 days or more in the amount of 8 percent of the installment*
3 *or \$4, whichever is greater, but not more than \$15.*

4 **5.** *If a person is delinquent in repayment, the reasonable costs of*
5 *collection and an attorney's fee may be recovered from the person.*

6 **6.** *As used in this section, "bona fide resident" has the meaning*
7 *ascribed to it in NRS 396.540.*

8 **Sec. 9. 1.** *The loans made pursuant to sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of*
9 *this act must not exceed the following amounts per student per semester.*

10 *If the student is enrolled in a program of:*

11 **(a)** *A community college, \$1,700.*

12 **(b)** *A university, \$2,005.*

13 **2.** *Money loaned pursuant to sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act*
14 *must be allocated among the campuses of the system in amounts that will*
15 *allow the same percentage of eligible students from each campus who are*
16 *enrolled in programs that provide courses of study and training for the*
17 *education of teachers to receive loans.*

18 **Sec. 10. 1.** *Except as otherwise provided in this section, a student*
19 *who receives a loan pursuant to sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act*
20 *shall repay the loan and accrued interest in full pursuant to the terms of*
21 *the loan. A recipient who:*

22 **(a)** *Holds a license to teach issued pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS;*
23 *and*

24 **(b)** *Teaches full time for at least 1 school year in a public school in an*
25 *identified area of this state in which a shortage of teachers exists,*
26 *may apply to the board of regents to request a reduction in the amount of*
27 *the loan and interest that must be repaid. The board of regents shall*
28 *reduce the amount owed by the applicant upon receipt of credible*
29 *evidence that the applicant taught full time for at least 1 school year in a*
30 *public school in an area identified pursuant to subsection 3. For each*
31 *such year of qualified teaching service, the board of regents shall reduce*
32 *the amount owed by an amount equal to the average amount owed per*
33 *academic year during which the applicant received the loans.*

34 **2.** *The board of regents may adopt:*

35 **(a)** *Regulations which extend the time for completing the qualified*
36 *teaching service beyond 5 years for persons who are granted extensions*
37 *because of hardship;*

38 **(b)** *Regulations which grant prorated reductions in the amount due in*
39 *exchange for the actual amount of qualified teaching service, for cases in*
40 *which the period of the qualified teaching service is at least 1 year but not*
41 *equal to 1 complete school year per academic year during which the*
42 *applicant received the loans;*

and

1 (c) Such other regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions
2 of sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act.

3 3. The board of regents shall, in cooperation with the boards of
4 trustees of school districts in this state:

5 (a) Identify the areas of this state in which a shortage of teachers
6 exists.

7 (b) Recruit pupils who are enrolled in high schools in this state into the
8 program to provide loans to students pursuant to sections 8 to 15,
9 inclusive, of this act.

10 **Sec. 11.** The board of regents or its designee may require:

11 1. A student to acquire, as security for a student loan, insurance on
12 his life and on his health or against his disability, or both.

13 2. That a financially responsible person agree to be jointly liable with
14 the recipient for the repayment of the loan.

15 **Sec. 12.** The board of regents or its designee may require, upon
16 notice to a recipient of a loan, that he repay the balance and any unpaid
17 interest on the loan immediately if:

18 1. An installment is not paid within 30 days after it is due;

19 2. The recipient fails to notify the board of regents or its designee,
20 within 30 days, of:

21 (a) A change of name or of the address of his home or place of
22 employment; or

23 (b) The termination of the education for which he received the loan; or

24 3. The recipient fails to comply with a requirement or perform an
25 obligation he is required to perform pursuant to an agreement with the
26 board of regents or its designee.

27 **Sec. 13.** A recipient of a loan pursuant to sections 8 to 15, inclusive,
28 of this act shall comply with the regulations adopted by the board of
29 regents. If a recipient fails to comply, the board of regents or its designee
30 may:

31 1. For each infraction, impose a fine of not more than \$200 against
32 the recipient in 1 academic year, and may deny additional money to the
33 recipient if he fails to pay the fine when due;

34 2. Increase the portion of a future loan to be repaid by the recipient;
35 and

36 3. Extend the time by which the recipient is required to teach in this
37 state in lieu of repaying his loan.

38 **Sec. 14.** 1. The board of regents or its designee may, after receiving
39 an application stating the reasons therefor, grant an extension of the
40 period for the repayment of a loan in case of hardship arising out of the
41 circumstances of a recipient. The extension must be for a period that will
42 reasonably alleviate that hardship.

1 **2. Applications for extensions must be filed within the time prescribed**
2 **by regulation of the board of regents.**

3 **Sec. 15. The board of regents shall:**

4 **1. Receive, invest, disburse and account for all money received for the**
5 **program.**

6 **2. Report to the governor and the legislature on or before September**
7 **1 of each year immediately preceding a regular session of the legislature,**
8 **setting forth in detail the transactions conducted by the board of regents**
9 **relating to the program during the biennium ending June 30 of that year.**

10 **3. Make such recommendations for legislation that the board of**
11 **regents considers appropriate for the program.**

12 **Sec. 16.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund
13 to the department of education the sum of \$100,000 for the:

14 (a) Establishment of the program for the recruitment and professional
15 development of teachers pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of this act.

16 (b) Repayment of loans pursuant to section 4 of this act.

17 (c) Reimbursement of costs pursuant to section 5 of this act.

18 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1
19 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2001, and reverts to
20 the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have
21 been made.

22 **Sec. 17.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund
23 to the board of regents the sum of \$100,000 for loans to students who are
24 enrolled in programs of the University and Community College System of
25 Nevada that provide courses of study and training for the education of
26 teachers in accordance with sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act.

27 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1
28 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2001, and reverts to
29 the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have
30 been made.

31 **Sec. 18.** The department of education shall:

32 1. Not later than August 1, 1999, designate areas of this state in which
33 a shortage of teachers exists for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

34 2. Not later than August 1, 1999, identify fields of specialization where
35 a shortage of teachers exists for the purposes of section 5 of this act.

36 3. Not later than September 30, 1999, establish the program for the
37 recruitment and professional development of teachers in accordance with
38 the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this act.

39 4. Not later than September 30, 1999, adopt regulations required by
40 section 6 of this act.

1 **Sec. 19.** The department of education shall not:

2 1. Provide for the repayment of student loans pursuant to section 4 of
3 this act unless a licensed teacher teaches for the 1999-2000 school year or
4 after in an area of this state in which a shortage of teachers exists.

5 2. Reimburse, pursuant to section 5 of this act, the costs incurred by a
6 teacher in obtaining an endorsement in a field of specialization if the
7 teacher obtained the endorsement before October 1, 1999.

8 **Sec. 20.** 1. This section and sections 16 and 17 of this act become
9 effective upon passage and approval.

10 2. Section 4 of this act becomes effective upon passage and approval
11 for the purpose of designating areas of this state in which a shortage of
12 teachers exists and on October 1, 1999, for all other purposes.

13 3. Section 5 of this act becomes effective upon passage and approval
14 for the purpose of identifying fields of specialization where a shortage of
15 teachers exists and on October 1, 1999, for all other purposes.

16 4. Section 6 of this act becomes effective upon passage and approval
17 for the purpose of adopting regulations and on July 1, 1999, for all other
18 purposes.

19 5. Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, 7 to 15, inclusive, and 18 and 19 of this
20 act become effective on July 1, 1999.