

SENATE BILL NO. 454

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
on January 20, 2022)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Boysko)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 23.1 an article numbered 8,  
consisting of sections numbered 23.1-643 through 23.1-647, relating to Teacher Training Corps.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 23.1 an article numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-643 through 23.1-647, as follows:**

Article 8.

Teacher Training Corps.

**§ 23.1-643. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Commission" means the Teacher Training Corps Commission created pursuant to § 23.1-646.

"Department" means the Department of Education.

"Fund" means the Teaching Training Corps Scholarship Fund created pursuant to § 23.1-645.

"High-need school" or "high-need public school" has the same meaning as set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11)(A).

"Participating institution" means Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Radford University, and Virginia Commonwealth University, and any other public or nonprofit private institution of higher education that becomes a participating institution pursuant to subsection A of § 23.1-646.

"Program" means the Teaching Training Corps Scholarship Program created pursuant to § 23.1-645.

"School board" means the school board that governs a school division.

**§ 23.1-644. Teacher Training Corps; purpose.**

27        The Teacher Training Corps is established for the purpose of attracting and retaining public  
28 elementary and secondary school teachers in school divisions in the Commonwealth by increasing the  
29 interest of and affordability for students enrolled at participating institutions to obtain teaching degrees  
30 and certifications and requiring such students to fill teacher positions for specified periods of time and  
31 meet other requirements set out in this article.

32        **§ 23.1-645. Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Fund and Program established;**  
33 **administration; criteria.**

34        A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the  
35 Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller.  
36 All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly, and from any other sources, public or private, shall be  
37 paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain  
38 in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end  
39 of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund  
40 shall be used solely for the purposes of disbursing moneys to participating institutions for the award of  
41 scholarships to students pursuant to the Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Program established in  
42 subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on  
43 warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the chairman of the Commission.

44        B. There is hereby established a Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Program for the purpose of  
45 disbursing moneys from the Fund to participating institutions for the award of scholarships to students as  
46 set forth in this section, including stipends as described in subsection I.

47        C. Moneys from the Fund shall fully fund 25 Teacher Training Corps scholarships each year per  
48 participating institution to students attending the participating institutions. The Commission shall establish  
49 an application process for students who have been accepted for admission to such institutions to apply to  
50 the Program.

51        D. The Program shall accept applications from any student participating in any academic programs  
52 in the areas of public elementary and secondary school education offered by participating institutions.

53 E. The Commission shall determine 25 awardees and five alternates for each participating  
54 institution from students who have been accepted for admission to such institutions and applied to the  
55 Program. Each student accepted to and wishing to participate in the Program shall enter into a contract  
56 with the Commonwealth that outlines the terms, conditions, and responsibilities of the student, the  
57 Commonwealth in its administration of the Program, and the participating institution. Each student shall  
58 be at least 18 years of age at the time that the contract is signed. In the event that a student terminates his  
59 contract prior to completing the Program, whether during completion of an academic program or  
60 certification or during the teaching period, all expenses paid for by the Commonwealth shall be converted  
61 to a student loan to be paid back by the student. Upon successful execution of a contract between the  
62 student and the Commonwealth, a scholarship awarded under the Fund shall cover the full expenses of  
63 tuition, room and board, and other required fees for a student to attend a participating institution and  
64 complete a degree or certification eligible for the Program as described in subsection D. A student shall  
65 be permitted to live off campus and receive the full scholarship funds, but the Commonwealth shall not  
66 be required to cover more than the cost of living on campus to such student. In order for the  
67 Commonwealth to pay for additional years to complete an academic program or certification beyond the  
68 standard number of years required to complete such academic program or certification, the Commission  
69 may elect to pay for such additional time required for the student to complete his degree and add such  
70 additional time to the time that the student is required to teach upon graduation under the Program. A  
71 contract under this subsection shall include a provision that each student is required to complete one year  
72 of teaching at a high-need public school in the Commonwealth per each year of school paid for by the  
73 Commonwealth.

74 F. Scholarships shall automatically renew each academic year so long as the student (i) maintains  
75 a grade point average of at least 2.75 on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent, (ii) maintains satisfactory academic  
76 progress toward receiving a degree eligible for the Program, and (iii) is not subject to any academic  
77 sanctions or other character and fitness problems as determined by the Commission.

78 G. Departure from the Program before a student's completion of a degree eligible for the Program  
79 or completion of the required teaching period shall result in the student being liable to the Commonwealth

80 for all funds expended from the Fund up until the point of departing from the Program. Such funds shall  
81 be converted to a student loan to be paid back by the student.

82 H. The Department, the Council, and participating institutions shall establish a support program at  
83 each participating institution that shall include cohort work groups for participating students, field trips,  
84 additional professional development and continuing education programs, community outreach, and other  
85 opportunities that encourage students to understand the value and importance of becoming a teacher and  
86 to help ensure that students successfully complete the Program.

87 I. The Commission, the Council, and participating institutions shall, working with local school  
88 boards, develop an experiential learning program to prepare participating students for all aspects of their  
89 future careers as teachers, and, in doing so, shall establish guidelines for participation in the program and  
90 the payment of a stipend for each participating student.

91 J. Upon successfully graduating from a participating institution, each student shall be paid the  
92 starting salary for a teacher in the school division where he is employed. The starting salary shall be paid  
93 for by the local school board.

94 **§ 23.1-646. Teacher Training Corps Commission established.**

95 A. There is hereby established the Teacher Training Corps Commission (the Commission) in the  
96 executive branch of state government for the purpose of (i) developing a process for prospective teachers  
97 to apply to the Program; (ii) developing a contract that prospective teachers will sign before entering  
98 college under the Program; (iii) providing an annual report to the General Assembly on the status of the  
99 Program; (iv) making recommendations for Program improvements regarding pay, recruiting approach,  
100 pay structure, turnover, retention efforts, and number of needed positions; (v) ensuring that students in the  
101 Program meet all qualifications for the college or university program to which they have applied; and (vi)  
102 developing and carrying out a process whereby any other public and nonprofit private institution of higher  
103 education in the Commonwealth wishing to become a participating institution may apply to become a  
104 participating institution. The Commission shall administer the Program and shall carry out the goals and  
105 purposes of the Program set forth in this article.

106           B. The Commission shall have a total membership of 12 members that shall consist of four  
107 legislative members and eight nonlegislative members. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-  
108 chairman from among its members. The Commission shall include one representative from the  
109 Department, to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; one  
110 representative from the Council, to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General  
111 Assembly; one representative from the Virginia School Board Association, to be appointed by the  
112 Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; one representative from Longwood  
113 University, to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; one  
114 representative from Norfolk State University, to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by  
115 the General Assembly; one representative from Radford University to be appointed by the Governor,  
116 subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; one representative from Virginia Commonwealth  
117 University, to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; one  
118 educator certified in the Commonwealth that still serves as a teacher in the classroom, to be appointed by  
119 the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; one member of the Senate Committee on  
120 Education and Health or his designee, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and three  
121 members of the House Committee on Education or their designees, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
122 House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules  
123 of the House of Delegates. Members of the Commission shall serve terms of four years and may be  
124 reappointed. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired  
125 terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

126           C. The Commission shall meet quarterly, and the chairman and vice-chairman shall establish a  
127 meeting schedule on an annual basis. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. Legislative  
128 members of the Commission shall receive compensation as provided in § 30-19.12, and all members shall  
129 be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as  
130 provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the  
131 members shall be provided by the Fund.

132 D. The Council shall provide staff support to the Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth  
133 shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

134 **§ 23.1-647. Hiring; tracking compliance.**

135 A. All issues related to applications and employment shall be between students and the school  
136 divisions to which they apply and not the Commission.

137 B. The Commission shall establish a process for tracking students' compliance with the Program  
138 after graduation. As part of tracking such compliance, each student in the Program shall be required to  
139 submit evidence that the school at which he is employed is a high-need school.

140 **2. That the members of the Teacher Training Corps Commission (the Commission) established**  
141 **pursuant to § 23.1-646 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall be appointed no later**  
142 **than September 1, 2022, and that on or after September 1, 2022, the Commission shall begin meeting**  
143 **to establish the parameters for the Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Program (the Program) as**  
144 **set forth in § 23.1-645 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, and to award the first**  
145 **scholarships pursuant to the Program prior to the beginning of the 2023–2024 academic year.**

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