

HOUSE BILL NO. 860

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Reid)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-290.3, relating to Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Fund and Program; established.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-290.3 as follows:

§ 22.1-290.3. Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Fund and Program; established; purpose.

A. As used in this section:

"Council" means the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

"Fund" means the Teaching Training Corps Scholarship Fund created pursuant to this section.

"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 clause (vi) of subsection D.

"Program" means the Teaching Training Corps Scholarship Program created pursuant to this section.

B. The Teacher Training Corps is established for the purpose of attracting and retaining public elementary and secondary school teachers in school divisions in the Commonwealth by increasing the interest of and affordability for students enrolled in participating institutions to obtain teaching degrees and certifications and requiring such students to fill teacher positions in high-need schools for specified periods of time and meet other requirements set out in this section.

26 C. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the
27 Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller.
28 All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly, and from any other sources, public or private, shall be
29 paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain
30 in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end
31 of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund
32 shall be used solely for the purposes of disbursing moneys to participating institutions for the award of
33 scholarships to students pursuant to the Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Program established in
34 subsection D. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on
35 warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by an authorized agent of the Department.

36 D. There is hereby established a Teacher Training Corps Scholarship Program for the purpose of
37 disbursing moneys from the Fund to participating institutions for the award of scholarships to students as
38 set forth in this section, including stipends as described in subsection G.

39 The Department, in consultation with the Council and participating institutions, shall (i) develop a
40 process for prospective teachers to apply to the Program; (ii) develop a contract that prospective teachers
41 will sign before entering the Program; (iii) provide an annual report to the General Assembly on the status
42 of the Program; (iv) make recommendations for Program improvements regarding pay, recruiting
43 approach, pay structure, turnover, retention efforts, and number of needed positions; (v) ensure that
44 students in the Program meet all qualifications for the college or university program to which they have
45 applied; and (vi) develop and carry out a process whereby any other public and nonprofit private institution
46 of higher education in the Commonwealth wishing to become a participating institution may apply to
47 become a participating institution.

48 E. Moneys from the Fund shall fully fund up to 25 Teacher Training Corps scholarships each year
49 per participating institution to students attending the participating institutions. The Department, in
50 consultation with participating institutions, shall establish an application process for students who have
51 been accepted for admission to such institutions or are already students at such institutions to apply to the
52 Program.

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

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

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

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

85 J. The Department and the participating institutions shall, working with local school boards,
86 develop an experiential learning program to prepare participating students for all aspects of their future
87 career as teachers, culminating in a year-long teacher residency under the tutelage of an experienced and
88 excellent mentor teacher to ensure participating students understand the complexities of teaching and are
89 profession-ready on day one of their teaching careers. Mentor teachers shall be carefully selected based
90 on measures of teacher effectiveness and appropriate subject area knowledge and shall receive training
91 and compensation for serving as a mentor teacher. To ensure the success and retention of participating
92 students in high-need schools, they shall receive ongoing instructional coaching support from a highly
93 trained educator during the first two years of teaching after graduating from a participating institution.

94 K. Upon successfully graduating from a participating institution, each student shall be paid the
95 starting salary for a teacher in the school division where he is employed. The starting salary shall be paid
96 for by the local school board. All issues related to applications and employment shall be between students
97 and the school divisions to which they apply and not the Department.

98 L. The Department shall establish a process for tracking students' compliance with the Program
99 after graduation. As part of tracking such compliance, each student in the Program shall be required to
100 submit evidence that the school at which he is employed is a high-need school.

101 **2. That the Department of Education shall begin establishing the parameters for the Teacher**
102 **Training Corps Scholarship Program (the Program) as set forth in § 22.1-290.3 of the Code of**
103 **Virginia, as created by this act, and to award the first scholarships pursuant to the Program prior**
104 **to the beginning of the 2023–2024 academic year.**

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