
HOUSE BILL 1156

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61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Sullivan, Priest, Haigh, Quall, Dammeier, McCune, Wallace, Kelley, and Herrera

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a preference in the alternative route
2 certification program for veterans and national guard members; amending
3 RCW 28A.660.040 and 28A.660.050; and adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.660 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.660.040 and 2006 c 263 s 817 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Partnership grants funded under this chapter shall operate one to
9 four specific route programs. Successful completion of the program
10 shall make a candidate eligible for residency teacher certification.
11 For route one and two candidates, the mentor of the teacher candidate
12 at the school and the supervisor of the teacher candidate from the
13 higher education teacher preparation program must both agree that the
14 teacher candidate has successfully completed the program. For route
15 three and four candidates, the mentor of the teacher candidate shall
16 make the determination that the candidate has successfully completed
17 the program.

18 (1) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route one
19 programs shall enroll currently employed classified instructional

1 employees with transferable associate degrees seeking residency teacher
2 certification with endorsements in special education, bilingual
3 education, or English as a second language. It is anticipated that
4 candidates enrolled in this route will complete both their
5 baccalaureate degree and requirements for residency certification in
6 two years or less, including a mentored internship to be completed in
7 the final year. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry
8 requirements for candidates that include:

9 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
10 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as a
11 classified instructional employee;

12 (b) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
13 available; and

14 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
15 requirements adopted by rule for teachers.

16 (2) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route two
17 programs shall enroll currently employed classified staff with
18 baccalaureate degrees seeking residency teacher certification in
19 subject matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to
20 geographic location. Candidates enrolled in this route must complete
21 a mentored internship complemented by flexibly scheduled training and
22 coursework offered at a local site, such as a school or educational
23 service district, or online or via video-conference over the K-20
24 network, in collaboration with the partnership program's higher
25 education partner. In addition, partnership grant programs shall
26 uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

27 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
28 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as
29 classified staff;

30 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
31 of higher education. The individual's college or university grade
32 point average may be considered as a selection factor;

33 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
34 content test is available;

35 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
36 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

37 (e) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
38 available.

1 (3) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route three
2 programs shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are
3 not employed in the district at the time of application. When
4 selecting candidates for certification through route three, districts
5 shall give priority to individuals who are seeking residency teacher
6 certification in subject matter shortage areas or shortages due to
7 geographic locations. For route three only, the districts may include
8 additional candidates in nonshortage subject areas if the candidates
9 are seeking endorsements with a secondary grade level designation as
10 defined by rule by the professional educator standards board. The
11 districts shall disclose to candidates in nonshortage subject areas
12 available information on the demand in those subject areas. Cohorts of
13 candidates for this route shall attend an intensive summer teaching
14 academy, followed by a full year employed by a district in a mentored
15 internship, followed, if necessary, by a second summer teaching
16 academy. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry
17 requirements for candidates that include:

- 18 (a) Five years' experience in the workforce;
- 19 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
20 of higher education. The individual's grade point average may be
21 considered as a selection factor;
- 22 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
23 content test is available;
- 24 (d) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
25 successful experience with students or children, such as reference
26 letters and letters of support from previous employers;
- 27 (e) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
28 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and
- 29 (f) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exams, when
30 available.

31 (4) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route four
32 programs shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are
33 employed in the district at the time of application, or who hold
34 conditional teaching certificates or emergency substitute certificates.
35 Cohorts of candidates for this route shall attend an intensive summer
36 teaching academy, followed by a full year employed by a district in a
37 mentored internship. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold
38 entry requirements for candidates that include:

- 1 (a) Five years' experience in the workforce;
- 2 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
3 of higher education. The individual's grade point average may be
4 considered as a selection factor;
- 5 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
6 content test is available;
- 7 (d) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
8 successful experience with students or children, such as reference
9 letters and letters of support from previous employers;
- 10 (e) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
11 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and
- 12 (f) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exams, when
13 available.
- 14 (5) Applicants for alternative route programs who are eligible
15 veterans or national guard members and who meet the entry requirements
16 for the alternative route program for which application is made shall
17 be given preference in admission.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.660.050 and 2007 c 396 s 8 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 The conditional scholarship programs in this chapter are created
21 under the following guidelines:

22 (1) The programs shall be administered by the higher education
23 coordinating board. In administering the programs, the higher
24 education coordinating board has the following powers and duties:

25 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer
26 the programs;

27 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not
28 meet their service obligations; and

29 (c) To accept grants and donations from public and private sources
30 for the programs.

31 (2) Requirements for participation in the conditional scholarship
32 programs are as provided in this subsection (2).

33 (a) The alternative route conditional scholarship program is
34 limited to interns of the partnership grant programs under RCW
35 28A.660.040. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards,
36 recipients shall:

1 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment in alternative
2 certification routes through the partnership grant program;

3 (ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of
4 the alternative route certification program and receipt of a residency
5 teaching certificate; and

6 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship,
7 not to exceed eight thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees,
8 and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and transportation
9 for the alternative route certification program in which the recipient
10 is enrolled. The board may adjust the annual award by the average rate
11 of resident undergraduate tuition and fee increases at the state
12 universities as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

13 (b) The pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship program
14 is limited to qualified paraeducators as provided by RCW 28A.660.042.
15 In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients shall:

16 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment at a community and
17 technical college for no more than two years and attain an associate of
18 arts degree;

19 (ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of an
20 associate of arts degree. This progress requirement is a condition for
21 eligibility into a route one program of the alternative routes to
22 teacher certification program for a mathematics, special education, or
23 English as a second language endorsement; and

24 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship,
25 not to exceed four thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees, and
26 educational expenses, including books, supplies, and transportation for
27 the alternative route certification program in which the recipient is
28 enrolled. The board may adjust the annual award by the average rate of
29 tuition and fee increases at the state community and technical
30 colleges.

31 (c) The retooling to teach mathematics and science conditional
32 scholarship program is limited to current K-12 teachers and individuals
33 having an elementary education certificate but who are not employed in
34 positions requiring an elementary education certificate as provided by
35 RCW 28A.660.045. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards:

36 (i) Individuals currently employed as teachers shall pursue a
37 middle level mathematics or science, or secondary mathematics or
38 science endorsement; or

1 (ii) Individuals who are certificated with an elementary education
2 endorsement, but not employed in positions requiring an elementary
3 education certificate, shall pursue an endorsement in middle level
4 mathematics or science, or both; and

5 (iii) Individuals shall use one of the pathways to endorsement
6 processes to receive a mathematics or science endorsement, or both,
7 which shall include passing a mathematics or science endorsement test,
8 or both tests, plus observation and completing applicable coursework to
9 attain the proper endorsement; and

10 (iv) Individuals shall receive no more than the annual amount of
11 the scholarship, not to exceed three thousand dollars, for the cost of
12 tuition, test fees, and educational expenses, including books,
13 supplies, and transportation for the endorsement pathway being pursued.

14 (3) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
15 select individuals to receive conditional scholarships. In selecting
16 recipients, preference shall be given to eligible veterans or national
17 guard members.

18 (4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
19 a loan that is forgiven in whole or in part in exchange for service as
20 a certificated teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public
21 school. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every
22 two years a recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients who fail
23 to continue a course of study leading to residency teacher
24 certification or cease to teach in a public school in the state of
25 Washington in their endorsement area are required to repay the
26 remaining loan principal with interest.

27 (5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching obligation
28 are required to repay the remaining loan principal with interest and
29 any other applicable fees. The higher education coordinating board
30 shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment, including
31 applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

32 (6) The higher education coordinating board may deposit all
33 appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the
34 program in this chapter in the future teachers conditional scholarship
35 account authorized in RCW 28B.102.080.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.660
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 As used in this chapter, "eligible veteran or national guard
2 member" means a Washington domiciliary who was an active or reserve
3 member of the United States military or naval forces, or a national
4 guard member called to active duty, who served in active federal
5 service, under either Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code,
6 in a war or conflict fought on foreign soil or in international waters
7 or in another location in support of those serving on foreign soil or
8 in international waters, and if discharged from service, has received
9 an honorable discharge.

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