

1-1 By: Kuempel, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 4363
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;
 1-3 May 5, 2023, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher
 1-4 Education; May 18, 2023, reported favorably from Committee on
 1-5 Education by the following vote: Yeas 12, Nays 1; May 18, 2023,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14		X		
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-23 AN ACT

1-24 relating to the establishment of the Future Texas Teachers
 1-25 Scholarship Program for certain students at public institutions of
 1-26 higher education.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-29 Subchapter S to read as follows:

1-30 SUBCHAPTER S. FUTURE TEXAS TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1-31 Sec. 56.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-32 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
 1-33 Education Coordinating Board.

1-34 (2) "Eligible institution" means a general academic
 1-35 teaching institution or a private or independent institution of
 1-36 higher education, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003,
 1-37 that operates an eligible educator preparation program.

1-38 (3) "Enrolled full-time" means enrolled for at least
 1-39 12 semester credit hours or participating in a clinical teaching
 1-40 assignment or internship that meets criteria established by State
 1-41 Board for Educator Certification rule for initial certification as
 1-42 a classroom teacher.

1-43 (4) "Scholarship program" means the Future Texas
 1-44 Teachers Scholarship Program authorized by this subchapter.

1-45 Sec. 56.502. PURPOSE. The Future Texas Teachers
 1-46 Scholarship Program is created to recruit, prepare, and retain a
 1-47 talented and diverse workforce of career teachers to be leaders in
 1-48 their field and to provide assistance for tuition, mandatory fees,
 1-49 and other usual and customary costs of attendance at an eligible
 1-50 institution as provided by Sections 56.506 and 56.507.

1-51 Sec. 56.503. ELIGIBLE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS. To be
 1-52 eligible to participate in the scholarship program, an educator
 1-53 preparation program must:

1-54 (1) be operated by an eligible institution;

1-55 (2) provide a structured system of support to assist
 1-56 scholarship recipients to successfully complete the educator
 1-57 preparation program;

1-58 (3) require additional hours of field-based
 1-59 experience for students above the minimum hours required by State
 1-60 Board for Educator Certification rule;

1-61 (4) require additional hours of clinical teaching

2-1 experience for students above the minimum hours required by State
2-2 Board for Educator Certification rule;
2-3 (5) provide or facilitate opportunities for
2-4 scholarship recipients to participate in learning opportunities
2-5 beyond the university classroom setting; and
2-6 (6) comply with other eligibility criteria
2-7 established by coordinating board rule.
2-8 Sec. 56.504. INITIAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP.
2-9 (a) To be eligible initially for a scholarship under the
2-10 scholarship program, a person must:
2-11 (1) be a Texas resident under Section 54.052;
2-12 (2) either:
2-13 (A) be enrolled full-time in an eligible
2-14 institution; or
2-15 (B) have applied for admission to an eligible
2-16 institution and enroll full-time in that institution in the
2-17 academic year immediately following the person's application;
2-18 (3) once enrolled full-time in an eligible
2-19 institution, be working toward a baccalaureate or master's degree
2-20 and on track to be admitted to an eligible educator preparation
2-21 program, as verified by the eligible institution operating the
2-22 educator preparation program;
2-23 (4) demonstrate a commitment to pursuing a career as a
2-24 classroom teacher in a public school in this state:
2-25 (A) in a teaching field identified by the
2-26 commissioner of education as experiencing a critical shortage of
2-27 teachers in this state; or
2-28 (B) in a public school in this state in which a
2-29 majority of students enrolled are educationally disadvantaged;
2-30 (5) comply with Section 28.0256; and
2-31 (6) comply with any other academic or nonacademic
2-32 requirements adopted by the coordinating board under this
2-33 subchapter.
2-34 (b) A person is not eligible to receive a scholarship under
2-35 the scholarship program if the person has been convicted of a felony
2-36 or misdemeanor offense relating to the duties and responsibilities
2-37 of the education profession, including:
2-38 (1) an offense involving moral turpitude;
2-39 (2) an offense involving a form of sexual or physical
2-40 abuse of a minor or student or other illegal conduct in which the
2-41 victim is a minor or student;
2-42 (3) a felony offense involving the possession,
2-43 transfer, sale, or distribution of or conspiracy to possess,
2-44 transfer, sell, or distribute a controlled substance, as defined by
2-45 Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et
2-46 seq.;
2-47 (4) an offense involving the illegal transfer,
2-48 appropriation, or use of school district funds or other district
2-49 property; or
2-50 (5) an offense involving an attempt by fraudulent or
2-51 unauthorized means to obtain or alter a professional certificate or
2-52 license issued under Subchapter B, Chapter 21.
2-53 Sec. 56.505. CONTINUING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND ACADEMIC
2-54 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS. (a) After initially qualifying for a
2-55 scholarship under this subchapter, a person may continue to receive
2-56 a scholarship under the scholarship program during each semester or
2-57 term in which the person is enrolled at an eligible institution only
2-58 if the person:
2-59 (1) demonstrates a continued commitment to pursuing a
2-60 career as a classroom teacher:
2-61 (A) in a teaching field identified by the
2-62 commissioner of education as experiencing a critical shortage of
2-63 teachers in this state; or
2-64 (B) in a public school in this state in which a
2-65 majority of students enrolled are educationally disadvantaged;
2-66 (2) remains enrolled full-time in an eligible
2-67 institution;
2-68 (3) remains enrolled in or is on track to be admitted
2-69 to an eligible educator preparation program, as verified by the

3-1 eligible institution in which the person is enrolled;
3-2 (4) makes satisfactory academic progress toward
3-3 completion of a baccalaureate or master's degree and approval to
3-4 take a teacher certification exam, as verified by the eligible
3-5 institution; and
3-6 (5) complies with any other academic or nonacademic
3-7 requirements adopted by the coordinating board under this
3-8 subchapter.
3-9 (b) A person is not eligible to continue to receive a
3-10 scholarship under the scholarship program if the person has been
3-11 convicted of a felony or misdemeanor offense described by Section
3-12 56.504(b).
3-13 (c) If a person fails to meet any of the requirements of
3-14 Subsection (a) after the completion of any semester or term, the
3-15 person may not receive a scholarship under this subchapter during
3-16 the next semester or term in which the person enrolls. A person may
3-17 become eligible to receive a scholarship under this subchapter in a
3-18 subsequent semester or term if the person:
3-19 (1) completes a semester or term during which the
3-20 person is not eligible for a scholarship; and
3-21 (2) meets all the requirements of Subsection (a).
3-22 (d) For the purpose of this section, a person makes
3-23 satisfactory academic progress toward a baccalaureate or master's
3-24 degree only if:
3-25 (1) in the person's first academic year the person
3-26 meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the
3-27 eligible institution in which the person is enrolled; and
3-28 (2) in a subsequent academic year, the person:
3-29 (A) completes at least 75 percent of the semester
3-30 credit hours attempted in the person's most recent academic year;
3-31 and
3-32 (B) has earned an overall grade point average of
3-33 at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework
3-34 previously attempted at an eligible institution.
3-35 (e) A person who is eligible to receive a scholarship under
3-36 this subchapter continues to remain eligible to receive the
3-37 scholarship if the person enrolls in or transfers to an eligible
3-38 educator preparation program at another eligible institution.
3-39 (f) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a
3-40 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a scholarship under
3-41 this subchapter, in the event of a hardship or for other good cause
3-42 shown, including a showing of a severe illness or other
3-43 debilitating condition that may affect the person's academic
3-44 performance or that the person is responsible for the care of a
3-45 sick, injured, or needy person and that the person's provision of
3-46 care may affect the person's academic performance, to receive a
3-47 scholarship under this subchapter:
3-48 (1) while enrolled in a number of semester credit
3-49 hours that is less than the number required to be enrolled
3-50 full-time; or
3-51 (2) if the person's grade point average or completion
3-52 rate falls below the satisfactory academic progress requirements of
3-53 Subsection (d).
3-54 (g) A person's eligibility for a scholarship under this
3-55 subchapter ends on the earlier of:
3-56 (1) the fourth anniversary of the initial award of a
3-57 scholarship under this subchapter to the person and the person's
3-58 enrollment in an eligible institution; or
3-59 (2) the person's completion of the baccalaureate or
3-60 master's degree program described by Section 56.504(a)(3).
3-61 Sec. 56.506. SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT. (a) Beginning with the
3-62 2024-2025 academic year, the amount of a scholarship under this
3-63 subchapter is equal to the amount of the scholarship for the
3-64 preceding academic year, adjusted for inflation using the college
3-65 tuition and fees index component of the consumer price index
3-66 produced by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.
3-67 (a-1) For the 2023-2024 academic year, the amount of a
3-68 scholarship under this subchapter is \$12,000. This subsection
3-69 expires September 1, 2024.

4-1 (b) The amount of a scholarship under this subchapter may
 4-2 not be reduced by any other scholarship, grant, or financial aid
 4-3 which the scholarship recipient receives.

4-4 (c) Not later than January 31 of each year, the coordinating
 4-5 board shall publish the amounts of each scholarship established by
 4-6 the board for the academic year beginning the next fall semester.

4-7 Sec. 56.507. SCHOLARSHIP USE. A person receiving a
 4-8 scholarship under this subchapter may use the money to pay any usual
 4-9 and customary cost of attendance at an eligible institution
 4-10 incurred by the person. The institution may disburse all or part of
 4-11 the proceeds of a scholarship under this subchapter to an eligible
 4-12 person only if the tuition and required fees incurred by the person
 4-13 at the institution have been paid.

4-14 Sec. 56.508. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM. (a) The
 4-15 coordinating board shall adopt any rules necessary to:

4-16 (1) establish eligibility criteria for educator
 4-17 preparation programs in accordance with Section 56.503 and for
 4-18 scholarship recipients in accordance with Sections 56.504 and
 4-19 56.505;

4-20 (2) establish procedures for the application process
 4-21 and for selecting scholarship recipients from among eligible
 4-22 applicants; and

4-23 (3) administer the scholarship program.

4-24 (b) In establishing criteria for eligible educator
 4-25 preparation programs under Section 56.503, the coordinating board
 4-26 shall consult with the State Board for Educator Certification. The
 4-27 coordinating board shall consider the standards used by the State
 4-28 Board for Educator Certification in identifying effective,
 4-29 high-quality educator preparation programs grounded in
 4-30 evidence-based best practices and, to the maximum extent possible,
 4-31 align the eligibility criteria to those standards.

4-32 (c) In establishing criteria for eligible persons under
 4-33 Sections 56.504 and 56.505, the coordinating board shall consult
 4-34 with representatives of the educator preparation programs from
 4-35 eligible institutions.

4-36 (d) In developing rules related to distributing a
 4-37 scholarship, the coordinating board shall consult with financial
 4-38 aid coordinators of eligible institutions.

4-39 (e) The total amount of scholarships awarded may not exceed
 4-40 the amount available for the program from appropriations, gifts,
 4-41 grants, or other funds.

4-42 (f) From money appropriated by the legislature for the
 4-43 purposes of this subchapter, the coordinating board annually shall
 4-44 determine the allocation of money available for scholarships among
 4-45 eligible institutions and shall distribute the money accordingly.

4-46 (g) In determining who should receive a scholarship under
 4-47 this subchapter, the coordinating board shall give priority to
 4-48 awarding scholarships to:

4-49 (1) persons who demonstrate the greatest financial
 4-50 need and whose expected family contribution, as determined
 4-51 according to the methodology used for federal student financial
 4-52 aid, does not exceed 60 percent of the average statewide amount of
 4-53 tuition and required fees;

4-54 (2) first-generation college students, as defined by
 4-55 coordinating board rule; and

4-56 (3) persons who demonstrate a commitment both to
 4-57 entering a teaching field identified by the commissioner of
 4-58 education as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers and to
 4-59 teaching in a public school in this state in which a majority of
 4-60 students enrolled are educationally disadvantaged.

4-61 SECTION 2. Section 56.308(b), Education Code, is amended to
 4-62 read as follows:

4-63 (b) Each school district shall:

4-64 (1) notify its middle school students, junior high
 4-65 school students, and high school students, those students' teachers
 4-66 and school counselors, and those students' parents of the TEXAS
 4-67 grant, ~~and~~ Teach for Texas grant, and Future Texas Teachers
 4-68 Scholarship programs, the eligibility requirements of each
 4-69 program, the need for students to make informed curriculum choices

5-1 to be prepared for success beyond high school, and sources of
5-2 information on higher education admissions and financial aid in a
5-3 manner that assists the district in implementing a strategy adopted
5-4 by the district under Section 11.252(a)(4); and

5-5 (2) ensure that each student's official transcript or
5-6 diploma indicates whether the student has completed or is on
5-7 schedule to complete:

5-8 (A) the recommended or advanced high school
5-9 curriculum required for grant eligibility under Section 28.002 or
5-10 28.025; or

5-11 (B) for a school district covered by Section
5-12 56.304(f)(1), the required portion of the recommended or advanced
5-13 high school curriculum in the manner described by Section
5-14 56.304(f)(2).

5-15 SECTION 3. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
5-16 Board shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter S, Chapter 56,
5-17 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after
5-18 the effective date of this Act.

5-19 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
5-20 begin awarding scholarships under Subchapter S, Chapter 56,
5-21 Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2023-2024
5-22 academic year.

5-23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5-24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5-25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5-26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5-27 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

5-28 * * * * *