

1-1 By: Patrick S.B. No. 1488  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2007; March 20, 2007, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 16, 2007, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote:  
1-6 Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 16, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1488 By: Patrick

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the Texas Teach Corps Scholarship Program for students  
1-11 who agree to teach in public schools in this state that have  
1-12 shortages of teachers in certain academic subjects.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
1-15 Subchapter FF to read as follows:

1-16 SUBCHAPTER FF. TEXAS TEACH CORPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1-17 Sec. 61.9831. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.

1-18 (a) In accordance with this subchapter and board rules, the board  
1-19 shall establish and administer the Texas Teach Corps Scholarship  
1-20 Program to award scholarships to undergraduate students who:

1-21 (1) are enrolled in educator preparation programs  
1-22 provided by public or private institutions of higher education in  
1-23 this state; and

1-24 (2) agree to teach for a specified period in the public  
1-25 schools in this state that are determined by the Texas Education  
1-26 Agency to have shortages of teachers in academic subjects.

1-27 (b) The amount of a scholarship under this subchapter for an  
1-28 academic year is equal to the lesser of:

1-29 (1) the total amount of tuition that the public or  
1-30 private institution of higher education in which the scholarship  
1-31 recipient is enrolled charges the recipient for that academic year  
1-32 for semester credit hours for which the recipient may use the  
1-33 scholarship to pay tuition as provided by Subsection (c); or

1-34 (2) \$5,000.

1-35 (c) A student may use a scholarship under this subchapter  
1-36 only to pay tuition for a semester credit hour that is required for  
1-37 completion of the educator preparation program in which the student  
1-38 is enrolled.

1-39 (d) For purposes of this subchapter, not later than April 1  
1-40 of each school year, the Texas Education Agency shall determine  
1-41 which public schools in this state are anticipated to have  
1-42 shortages of teachers during the following school year and shall  
1-43 provide that information to the board and to each educator  
1-44 preparation program in this state accredited by the State Board for  
1-45 Educator Certification. In making the determination required by  
1-46 this subsection, the agency shall consider the availability of  
1-47 teachers for only those subjects designated by agency rule as  
1-48 academic subjects. In making those designations, the agency may  
1-49 not consider athletics, physical education, art, or music,  
1-50 including band, as academic subjects.

1-51 Sec. 61.9832. ELIGIBILITY; LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF  
1-52 SCHOLARSHIPS. (a) To be eligible to receive a scholarship under  
1-53 this subchapter, a person must:

1-54 (1) have graduated from a high school in this state  
1-55 with an overall grade point average:

1-56 (A) of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the  
1-57 equivalent; and

1-58 (B) in the top 25 percent of the student's  
1-59 graduating class;

1-60 (2) be enrolled in an educator preparation program  
1-61 accredited by the State Board for Educator Certification that is  
1-62 provided by a public or private institution of higher education in  
1-63 this state; and

2-1 (3) enter into an agreement with the board as provided  
 2-2 by Section 61.9833.

2-3 (b) Not more than 4,000 scholarships may be awarded under  
 2-4 this subchapter for an academic year.

2-5 (b-1) This subsection expires September 1, 2011.  
 2-6 Notwithstanding Subsection (b), not more than the following number  
 2-7 of scholarships may be awarded under this subchapter for the  
 2-8 specified academic year:

2-9 (1) for the 2008-2009 academic year, not more than  
 2-10 1,000 scholarships may be awarded;

2-11 (2) for the 2009-2010 academic year, not more than  
 2-12 2,000 scholarships may be awarded; and

2-13 (3) for the 2010-2011 academic year, not more than  
 2-14 3,000 scholarships may be awarded.

2-15 (c) If in any year the amount of money available for  
 2-16 scholarships under this subchapter is insufficient to award a  
 2-17 scholarship to each eligible applicant or if there are more  
 2-18 eligible applicants than the number of scholarships authorized by  
 2-19 this section, the board shall establish criteria to determine which  
 2-20 eligible applicants will be granted scholarships as the board  
 2-21 determines appropriate to further the purposes of this subchapter,  
 2-22 including criteria that:

2-23 (1) are related to the financial need of an applicant;  
 2-24 and

2-25 (2) serve to ensure geographic and ethnic diversity  
 2-26 among scholarship recipients.

2-27 Sec. 61.9833. AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) To qualify for  
 2-28 a scholarship under this subchapter, a person must enter into a  
 2-29 written agreement with the board as provided by this section. The  
 2-30 agreement must:

2-31 (1) specify the conditions the person must satisfy to  
 2-32 receive the scholarship award;

2-33 (2) require the person to earn a baccalaureate degree  
 2-34 through completion of an educator preparation program accredited by  
 2-35 the State Board for Educator Certification that is provided by a  
 2-36 public or private institution of higher education in this state;

2-37 (3) require the person to obtain, within the period  
 2-38 prescribed by board rule, appropriate certification under  
 2-39 Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to teach in a public school in this state;

2-40 (4) require the person to accept, for the first school  
 2-41 year that begins after the date the person obtains the appropriate  
 2-42 certification, an offer of full-time employment to teach in a  
 2-43 public school in this state selected by the person from among  
 2-44 schools anticipated by the Texas Education Agency to have shortages  
 2-45 of teachers in academic subjects for that first school year for  
 2-46 which the person is accepting employment;

2-47 (5) require the person to complete eight years of  
 2-48 full-time employment teaching as follows:

2-49 (A) beginning with the school year described by  
 2-50 Subdivision (4), four consecutive school years of employment  
 2-51 teaching in one or more public schools in this state selected by the  
 2-52 person from among schools anticipated by the Texas Education Agency  
 2-53 to have shortages of teachers in academic subjects for the person's  
 2-54 applicable year of employment by the school; and

2-55 (B) beginning with the school year immediately  
 2-56 following the last of the four consecutive school years described  
 2-57 by Paragraph (A), four additional consecutive school years teaching  
 2-58 in any public school in this state;

2-59 (6) provide that any scholarship award the person  
 2-60 receives under this subchapter constitutes an interest-free loan  
 2-61 until the person:

2-62 (A) subject to Section 61.9835, satisfies the  
 2-63 requirements of Subdivision (5) and any other applicable conditions  
 2-64 of the agreement; or

2-65 (B) is excused from the repayment obligation in  
 2-66 accordance with law; and

2-67 (7) require the person to sign a promissory note  
 2-68 acknowledging the conditional nature of the scholarship award  
 2-69 received and promising to repay any unforgiven amount of that award

3-1 and reasonable collection costs if the person does not satisfy the  
 3-2 applicable conditions and is not excused from the repayment  
 3-3 obligation in accordance with law.

3-4 (b) To satisfy the teaching obligation prescribed by an  
 3-5 agreement under this section, a person must teach an academic  
 3-6 subject for not less than four hours each school day. For purposes  
 3-7 of this subsection, an academic subject is a subject designated as  
 3-8 such under Texas Education Agency rule as provided by Section  
 3-9 61.9831(d).

3-10 (c) For purposes of Subsection (a)(5)(A), if a person is  
 3-11 employed as a teacher in a public school anticipated to have a  
 3-12 shortage of teachers in academic subjects in the first year of  
 3-13 employment, each subsequent year of continuous employment as a  
 3-14 teacher in that school is considered to be employment in a school  
 3-15 anticipated to have such a shortage of teachers in that subsequent  
 3-16 year, regardless of whether the Texas Education Agency anticipated  
 3-17 that the school would have a shortage of teachers in that year.

3-18 (d) The board shall determine the terms of the promissory  
 3-19 note required by Subsection (a)(7). To the extent practicable, the  
 3-20 terms must be the same as those applicable to state or federally  
 3-21 guaranteed student loans made at the same time.

3-22 Sec. 61.9834. EXCEPTIONS TO TEACHING AND REPAYMENT  
 3-23 OBLIGATIONS. (a) A person is not considered to be in violation of  
 3-24 the teaching obligation in the agreement described by Section  
 3-25 61.9833 during any period in which the person:

3-26 (1) is pursuing a full-time course of study related to  
 3-27 the field of teaching offered by a public or private institution of  
 3-28 higher education in this state and approved by the State Board for  
 3-29 Educator Certification;

3-30 (2) is serving on active duty as a member of the armed  
 3-31 forces of the United States, including as a member of a reserve  
 3-32 force or National Guard called to active duty;

3-33 (3) is temporarily totally disabled for a period not  
 3-34 to exceed 36 months as established by the affidavit of a qualified  
 3-35 physician;

3-36 (4) is unable to secure employment for a period not to  
 3-37 exceed 12 months because of care required by a disabled spouse or  
 3-38 child;

3-39 (5) is seeking and unable to find, for a single period  
 3-40 not to exceed 12 months, full-time employment teaching in a public  
 3-41 school in this state, or if the person is within the period of the  
 3-42 agreement described by Section 61.9833(a)(5)(A), full-time  
 3-43 employment teaching in a public school in this state anticipated to  
 3-44 have a shortage of teachers in academic subjects for the year for  
 3-45 which the person is seeking employment; or

3-46 (6) satisfies the provisions of any other teaching  
 3-47 exception adopted by the board.

3-48 (b) A person is excused from the repayment obligation in a  
 3-49 promissory note described by Section 61.9833 if:

3-50 (1) the person becomes permanently totally disabled as  
 3-51 established by the affidavit of a qualified physician; or

3-52 (2) the board waives repayment in the case of extreme  
 3-53 hardship to the person.

3-54 Sec. 61.9835. FORGIVENESS OF REPAYMENT OBLIGATION. The  
 3-55 board shall forgive 25 percent of the total amount of a person's  
 3-56 scholarship awards under this subchapter for each complete school  
 3-57 year the person teaches in accordance with the agreement under  
 3-58 Section 61.9833 after the expiration of the period described by  
 3-59 Subsection (a)(5)(A) of that section.

3-60 Sec. 61.9836. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to  
 3-61 money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit and  
 3-62 accept grants, gifts, and donations from any public or private  
 3-63 source for the purposes of this subchapter.

3-64 Sec. 61.9837. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules to  
 3-65 administer this subchapter, including rules:

3-66 (1) providing for the manner in which a student may  
 3-67 apply for a scholarship; and

3-68 (2) providing for notification of the scholarship  
 3-69 program under this subchapter to students enrolled in educator

4-1 preparation programs in this state.

4-2 (b) The board shall distribute to each educator preparation  
4-3 program of a public or private institution of higher education in  
4-4 this state a copy of the rules adopted under this section.

4-5 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2007, the Texas  
4-6 Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency  
4-7 shall adopt rules for the Texas Teach Corps Scholarship Program  
4-8 under Subchapter FF, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this  
4-9 Act.

4-10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4-11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4-12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4-13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4-14 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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