



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7344

LCO No. 5354

05354_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF
TEACHERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Department of
2 Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program
3 to prepare paraprofessionals who have been successful in the
4 classroom for teaching careers. The program shall operate in priority
5 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes.

6 (b) The program shall assist paraprofessionals to become certified
7 teachers. Such assistance may include, but need not be limited to,
8 payment of the tuition and fees directly related to the training
9 necessary to become a certified teacher. The amount of assistance
10 provided to each paraprofessional pursuant to this section shall not
11 exceed ten thousand dollars per year. The department shall establish
12 criteria for paraprofessionals for participation in the program.

13 (c) The Commissioners of Education and Higher Education shall
14 identify institutions of higher education to provide the necessary
15 teacher training for the program. Each priority school district shall

16 select paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the
17 criteria established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of
18 this section and in consultation with the institutions of higher
19 education.

20 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an
21 employee of a local or regional board of education who does not
22 possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who
23 serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board of
24 education.

25 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Department of Higher
26 Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a fellows
27 program to allow qualified recent minority college graduates to enter
28 teaching through a four-week intensive summer session focusing on
29 classroom management and methodology. The department shall
30 require participants to pass the teacher competency examination
31 pursuant to section 10-145f of the general statutes or qualify for a
32 waiver of the examination. The department shall provide stipends of
33 two thousand five hundred dollars to each participant in the program.
34 After successful completion of the summer session, participants in the
35 program shall teach in a local or regional school district that agrees to
36 provide the participant with a master teacher. The local or regional
37 board of education shall allow the master teacher to spend two
38 preparation and mentoring sessions per day for a minimum of one
39 semester to work with the participant. The department shall pay each
40 master teacher a stipend of five thousand dollars. Participants shall
41 attend weekly seminars during the school year to meet the alternate
42 route to certification curricular requirements. As used in this section,
43 "minority" means those whose race is defined as other than white, or
44 whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office
45 of Management and Budget for use by the Bureau of Census of the
46 United States Department of Commerce.

47 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Departments of Higher

48 Education and Education shall establish, within available
49 appropriations, a program to allow college seniors who are part of a
50 minority and who are majoring in subject shortage areas pursuant to
51 section 10-8b of the general statutes but are not enrolled in a teacher
52 preparation program to receive up to three credits for working as cadet
53 teachers in a public school. Upon graduation and recommendation by
54 school officials, participants in the program may enter the fellows
55 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act. As used in this
56 section, "minority" means those whose race is defined as other than
57 white, or whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic or Latino by the
58 federal Office of Management and Budget for use by the Bureau of
59 Census of the United States Department of Commerce.

60 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Department of Education
61 shall establish a competitive grant program to assist local and regional
62 boards of education to form and operate future teachers' clubs as part
63 of the extracurricular activities at middle and high schools under their
64 jurisdiction. Local and regional boards of education may apply to the
65 Commissioner of Education for a grant at such time and in such
66 manner as the commissioner prescribes. The maximum grant award
67 shall be five thousand dollars. Any local or regional board of education
68 receiving a grant shall demonstrate that the future teachers' clubs
69 operating at middle and high schools under its jurisdiction take
70 affirmative steps to recruit minority students as members. Each grant
71 recipient shall seek additional funding in support of the clubs from
72 business and civic organizations. In awarding grants pursuant to this
73 section, the commissioner shall give preference to clubs that conduct
74 multidistrict activities. As used in this section, "minority" means those
75 whose race is defined as other than white, or whose ethnicity is
76 defined as Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office of Management and
77 Budget for use by the Bureau of Census of the United States
78 Department of Commerce.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2007</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2007</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2007</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2007</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage recruitment and retention of minority teachers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]