

Offered: 4/30/84
Referred: Finance

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1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 504 (Judiciary)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the teacher scholarship loan
7 program; and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 14.43 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 7. TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP LOAN PROGRAM.

11 Sec. 14.43.600. FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds
12 that there is a wide and unacceptable disparity between the distribu-
13 tion of Native teachers and Native students in rural elementary and
14 secondary schools in the state. Many rural schools have virtually no
15 Native teachers and no non-Native students. The undesirable effects
16 of this disparity include the following:

17 (1) there is a serious weakness in the ability of teaching
18 staffs in rural schools to foster a sense of Native traditions and
19 cultures in the Native students;

20 (2) many rural students are forced to exist in two entirely
21 separate situations: the essentially traditional atmosphere of many
22 Native homes, and the essentially modern atmosphere of the classroom;

23 (3) almost no Native students return to rural schools to
24 teach, continuing the imbalance and exacerbating its effects; and

25 (4) there is an annual turnover of 40 percent among teach-
26 ers in rural educational attendance areas in the state.

27 (b) The legislature further finds that existing programs have
28 failed to increase the proportion of Natives teaching in rural
29 schools. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to establish

1 the teacher scholarship loan program to encourage rural high school
2 graduates to return to rural schools as teachers and relieve the
3 conditions described in this section.

4 Sec. 14.43.610. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. There is established the
5 teacher scholarship loan program to provide an incentive for rural
6 high school graduates to pursue teaching careers in public rural
7 elementary and secondary schools in the state.

8 Sec. 14.43.620. TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP REVOLVING LOAN FUND. There
9 is created a teacher scholarship revolving loan fund. The fund shall
10 be used to make scholarship loans to students selected under AS 14.-
11 43.600 - 14.43.700. All repayments of principal and interest on
12 teacher scholarship loans shall be paid into the teacher scholarship
13 revolving loan fund and shall be used to make new teacher scholarship
14 loans. If estimated funds available from teacher scholarship loan
15 repayments are inadequate to fully fund estimated teacher scholarship
16 loans for any fiscal year, additional funding from the general fund
17 may be requested and appropriated for that year.

18 Sec. 14.43.630. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The teacher scholarship
19 loan program shall be administered by the student financial aid com-
20 mittee (AS 14.43.095) in accordance with regulations adopted by the
21 committee. The committee shall

22 (1) allocate the loan awards available for teacher scholar-
23 ship loans annually to local school boards giving a preference to
24 rural school districts; and

25 (2) develop and distribute to the local school boards an
26 application form for teacher scholarship loans; the form shall include
27 a requirement that the applicant supply a high school academic trans-
28 cript and a statement of intent to enter a teaching career in public
29 schools at the elementary or secondary school level in the state.

1 (b) The local school boards shall select the recipients of the
2 teacher scholarship loans according to the criteria in AS 14.43.650.

3 Sec. 14.43.640. CONDITIONS OF LOANS. (a) The conditions pro-
4 vided in AS 14.43.120 apply to teacher scholarship loans except as
5 otherwise provided in this section.

6 (b) If a borrower meets the conditions provided in (a) of this
7 section and is employed as a teacher in a public rural elementary or
8 secondary school, the portion of the loan that shall be paid by the
9 state, notwithstanding AS 14.43.120(j), is the following percentages
10 of the total loan received plus interest up to a total of 50 percent
11 of the total loan:

- 12 (1) one year employment, 10 percent;
- 13 (2) two years employment, an additional 10 percent;
- 14 (3) three years employment, an additional 10 percent;
- 15 (4) four years employment, an additional 10 percent;
- 16 (5) over four years employment, an additional 10 percent.

17 (c) A loan may not exceed \$7,500 in a school year.

18 (d) Proceeds from a teacher scholarship loan may be used only
19 for undergraduate expenses of books, tuition, required fees, room and
20 board, and the transportation expense for two round trips between the
21 loan recipient's home and school.

22 Sec. 14.43.650. SELECTION CRITERIA. (a) To be eligible for a
23 teacher scholarship loan, a student must

- 24 (1) be a graduate of a public or private high school in the
25 state, with sufficient credits to be admitted to an accredited college
26 or university;
- 27 (2) be enrolled in or show evidence of intent to enroll in
28 a degree program directed at a teaching career at the elementary or
29 secondary school level;

1 (3) meet the conditions set by the student's local school
2 board with respect to the district's requirements for teachers in
3 particular subject areas; and

4 (4) submit to the local school board an application pro-
5 vided by the student financial aid committee under AS 14.43.630(a)(3);
6 an application may be submitted six months before graduation from high
7 school.

8 (b) A local school board shall award teacher scholarship loans
9 giving a preference to applicants from rural schools who meet the
10 qualifications for a loan and taking into account the applicants'
11 academic records.

12 (c) A student may not be awarded a scholarship loan under
13 AS 14.43.090 - 14.43.160 and a teacher scholarship loan under AS 14.-
14 43.600 - 14.43.700 for the same school year.

15 Sec. 14.43.700. DEFINITION. In AS 14.43.600 - 14.43.700,
16 "rural" means a community in the state with a population of 4,500 or
17 less.

18 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
19 10.070(c).