

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1139 Minority Teacher Education Scholars

SPONSOR(S): Davis

TIED BILLS: None. **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1422

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N	McAlarney	Bishop
2) Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program (scholarship program) is a collaborative performance-based scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native American students. The scholarship program provides an annual scholarship in an amount that must be prorated based on available appropriations; the award may not exceed \$4,000. Awards are available to approved minority teacher education scholars who are enrolled in a Florida public or private postsecondary institution in their junior year and who are admitted into a teacher education program.

The bill:

- Revises the eligibility requirements for the scholarship program by removing a requirement that students enrolled in an approved teacher education program must be in their junior year to be eligible for the award, and requires that the student may not have earned more than 18 credit hours of upper-division education courses.
- Allows students to use the scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with a major in education.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2017.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program

Present Situation

The Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program (scholarship program) is a collaborative performance-based scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native American students. The scholarship program provides an annual scholarship in an amount that must be prorated based on available appropriation and may not exceed \$4,000 for each recipient who is enrolled in one of Florida's public or private universities or Florida College System (FCS) institutions in their junior year and is admitted into a teacher education program.¹

The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc. and (corporation) is a not-for-profit statutory corporation housed within the College of Education at the University of Florida that administers and manages the scholarship program.

A student may receive a scholarship for three consecutive years, if the student remains enrolled full-time in the scholarship program and makes satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in education.

An eligible student is required to:²

- Meet Florida residency requirements for receipt of state student financial aid;
- Have earned 60 credit hours or an Associate of Arts degree;
- Have not earned a baccalaureate degree in education;
- Be classified as a junior and have not exceeded 18 hours of upper-division education credit at the time of application;
- Have and maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average;
- Be a member of one of the following ethnic groups: African-American/Black, Hispanic-Latino, Asian-American/Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaskan native; and
- Be newly admitted into a teacher education program at any of the scholarship program's participating institutions.

Upon graduation, a recipient is required to teach one year in a Florida public school for each year the scholarship was received. If a recipient does not graduate within the two to three years of receiving scholarship funding, or if a recipient does not teach in a Florida public school, the recipient will be required to repay the total amount of the scholarship received at an annual interest rate of eight percent, paid within ten years.³

¹ s. 1009.60(1), F.S.

² Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Annual Report to the Commissioner 2015-16 (Jan. 2017)*, p. 45; <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/pdf/annualreportcurrent.pdf> (last visited Mar. 9, 2017).

³ Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Minority Teacher Education Scholarship Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.*, 2016-2017 Fact Sheet, pp. 2-3; <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/FFMT.pdf> (last visited 3/9/17).

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill revises the eligibility requirements for the scholarship program by removing a requirement that students enrolled in an approved teacher education program must be in their junior year to be eligible for the award, and requires that the student may not have earned more than 18 credit hours of upper-division education courses. The bill also allows a student to use the scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with a major in education.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1009.60, F.S., revising eligibility criteria for receipt of a minority teacher education scholarship.

Section 2. Amends s. 1009.605, F.S. revising the eligibility requirements for new scholarships and scholarship renewals.

Section 3. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2017.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.