

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1104

SPONSOR: Senator Carlton

SUBJECT: Teacher Preparation

DATE: March 24, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill will require the University of South Florida to develop a rigorous teacher preparation program for 200 highly talented students. The program will provide full scholarships in the form of forgivable loans funded through private donations and other outside sources. The scholarship loan will be forgiven if a participant teaches at least 4 years in a Florida public school that has been designated as performance category “D” or “F.”

The bill creates an undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

A 1999 Senate Education Committee Interim Project on Teacher Effectiveness reported that the correlation of teaching and student achievement was highest when teachers had taken and excelled in advanced level courses in the class content area. Advanced courses and high achievement have a measurable impact on the ways teachers manage the classroom and the achievement of their students as measured by scores on tests.¹ No other measure correlates so highly. The number of courses taken is less important than whether they were advanced.

Florida has a number of scholarships and forgivable loans to encourage people to enter the teaching profession. None of these programs is designed to recruit the highest achieving students into the teaching profession, but to assist regular students into a particular certification area or to correct under-representation of teachers with certain demographic characteristics.

The following table is a 1999-2000 projection of the scholarship programs and forgivable loans currently available to prospective teachers in Florida:

¹For example, see: Chaney, B. 1995. *Student Outcomes and the Professional Preparation of Eighth Grade Teachers in Science and Mathematics*, and Carlsen, W.S., 1991. *The Construction of Subject Matter Knowledge in Primary Science Teaching*.

Program/Statute	Award Amount	Students Eligible	Funds Appropriated
Critical Teacher Shortage Programs			\$4,146,795
Loan Forgiveness (s. 240.4063, F.S.)	\$1,160	1,825	
Tuition Reimbursement (s. 240.4064, F.S.)	\$1,160	1,750	
Florida Teacher Scholarship/ Forgivable Loan (s. 240.4064, F.S.)			\$1,857,000
Teacher Scholarship	\$1,500	438	
Teacher Loan	\$4,000	300	
Exceptional Student Education Training Grant (s. 240.405, F.S.)		300	\$109,212
Florida Fund for Minority Teachers (s. 240.4129, F.S.)	\$4,000	710	\$3,000,000
TOTAL		5,023	\$9,113,007

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration requires the University of South Florida to develop a rigorous teacher preparation program for 200 highly talented students. The program will be conducted at the Tampa campus and will provide full scholarships in the form of forgivable loans funded through private donations and other outside sources. The scholarship amount will be the cost of in-state tuition and mandatory student fees. The scholarship loan will be forgiven if a participant teaches at least 4 years in a Florida public school that has been designated as performance category “D” or “F.” If the participant does not meet this requirement, he or she must repay to the University of South Florida the amount of annual assistance received for each year of the unfulfilled teaching commitment.

The bill does not specify any recruitment procedures or define terms such as “highly talented” or “rigorous.” Thus the program will be flexible in its implementation strategies, as is appropriate for any program that does not request state funding.

The bill does not authorize any waivers from the requirement that students must repay their scholarship assistance if they fail to teach for 4 years in a “D” or “F” school, nor does it authorize interest or penalties for defaulting. It is customary both to require interest and penalties and to authorize waivers in similar programs, at least in case of the death or serious illness of the recipient. Since the University of South Florida is the lender and the funds are nonpublic, waiver provisions may be authorized under rules or policies of the university. Because of these factors, a number of students may be allowed to default without penalty.

Also, the bill does not provide for continuation after the required 200 students are prepared to teach and fulfill their teaching commitment. However, even without statutory authority, the University of South Florida could choose to initiate or continue such a program.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Two hundred students at the University of South Florida will be eligible for full scholarships to cover the cost of in-state tuition and mandatory student fees. Since the students are required to be highly talented, they will likely receive scholarships from the Bright Futures Program as well. In that case, the scholarship funds provided through Bright Futures will be given to them to cover other expenses.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The University of South Florida will incur the expense of raising the funds, publicizing the program, recruiting and selecting the scholars, adapting current teacher preparation programs to add rigor, following up on program completers to verify their employment at “D” or “F” schools, and collecting required loan repayments from any who do not fulfill the teaching commitment. According to staff in the Bureau of Student Financial Assistance, collecting loan repayments requires approximately 13 years of follow-up.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
