

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 940

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ROBB (Sponsor), BAKER (123), PORTWOOD, SCHARNHORST, POLLOCK, CUNNINGHAM (86), MUSCHANY, KRATKY, DAUS, MEINERS, FISHER, SCHIEFFER, HOLSMAN, HUBBARD, BAKER (25), SILVEY, ZIMMERMAN, STREAM AND VILLA (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 21, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2245L.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 168, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of the teach for Missouri act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 168, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 168.700, to read as follows:

168.700. 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Teach for Missouri Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Department", the Missouri department of elementary and secondary education;

(2) "Eligible applicant": a high school senior who:

(a) Is a United States citizen;

(b) Has a cumulative grade point average ranking in the top ten percentile in their graduating class and scores in the top twenty percentile on either the ACT or SAT assessment; or has a cumulative grade point average ranking in the top twenty percentile in their graduating class and scores in the top ten percentile of the ACT or SAT assessment;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

13 (c) Upon graduation from high school, attends a Missouri higher education
14 institution and attains a teaching certificate and either a bachelors or graduate degree with
15 a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4 point scale or equivalent;

16 (d) Signs an agreement with the department in which the applicant agrees to
17 engage in qualified employment upon graduation from a higher education institution for
18 five years; and

19 (e) Upon graduation from the higher education institution, engages in qualified
20 employment;

21 (3) "Qualified employment", employment as a teacher, as such term is defined in
22 section 168.104, in a school located in a school district that is classified as "provisionally
23 accredited" or "unaccredited" by the department at the time the eligible applicant signs
24 their first contract to teach in such district. Applicants shall only teach subject areas at
25 schools within such school districts where the scores in the subject areas at the school on
26 the statewide assessment as provided in section 160.518, RSMo, are lower than the state
27 average. Preference shall be given to a public school located in such school district, the
28 population of which includes a higher than average "at-risk student population", as such
29 term shall be defined by the department.

30 3. Within the limits of amounts appropriated therefor, the department shall, upon
31 proper verification to the department by an eligible applicant and the school district in
32 which the applicant is engaged in qualified employment, enter into a one-year contract
33 with eligible applicants to repay the interest and principal on the educational loans of the
34 applicants as provided in subsection 4 of this section. The department may enter into
35 subsequent one-year contracts with eligible applicants, not to total more than five such
36 contracts. The fifth one-year contract shall provide for a stipend to such applicants as
37 provided in subsection 4 of this section. If the school district becomes accredited at any
38 time during which the eligible applicant is teaching at a school under a contract entered
39 into pursuant to this section, nothing in this section shall preclude the department and the
40 eligible applicant from entering into subsequent contracts to teach within the school
41 district. An eligible applicant who does not enter into a contract with the department
42 under the provisions of this subsection shall not be eligible for repayment of educational
43 loans or a stipend under the provisions of subsection 4 of this section.

44 4. At the conclusion of each of the first four academic years that an eligible
45 applicant engages in qualified employment, one-fourth of the eligible applicant's
46 educational loans, not to exceed five thousand dollars per year, shall be repaid under terms
47 provided in the contract. At the conclusion of the fifth academic year that an eligible
48 applicant engages in qualified employment, a stipend in an amount equal to one thousand

49 dollars shall be granted to the eligible applicant. The maximum of five thousand dollars
50 per year and the stipend of one thousand dollars shall be adjusted annually by the same
51 percentage as the increase in the general price level as measured by the Consumer Price
52 Index for All Urban Consumers for the United States, or its successor index, as defined and
53 officially recorded by the United States Department of Labor or its successor agency. The
54 amount of any repayment of educational loans under this subsection shall not exceed the
55 actual cost of tuition and required fees for the eligible applicant at the institution of higher
56 education from which the eligible applicant graduated.

57 5. The department shall create and maintain a "Teach for Missouri" coordinator
58 position, the main responsibility of which shall be the identification, recruitment, and
59 selection of potential students meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) of subdivision
60 (2) of subsection 2 of this section. In selecting potential students, the coordinator shall give
61 preference to applicants that represent a variety of racial backgrounds in order to ensure
62 a diverse group of eligible applicants.

63 6. The department shall promulgate rules to enforce the provisions of this section,
64 including, but not be limited to: applicant eligibility, selection criteria, and the content of
65 loan repayment contracts. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships
66 or revenues available, priority shall be to those applicants with the most recent contract
67 date.

68 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo,
69 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if
70 it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if
71 applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable
72 and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo,
73 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
74 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
75 adopted after August 28, 2007, shall be invalid and void.

76 8. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Teach for Missouri Fund".
77 The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and shall approve disbursements from
78 the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Private donations, federal
79 grants, and other funds provided for the implementation of this section shall be placed in
80 the teach for Missouri fund. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely
81 for the repayment of loans and the payment of stipends under the provisions of this section.
82 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any moneys
83 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
84 general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same

85 manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments
86 shall be credited to the fund.

87 **9. The general assembly shall appropriate an amount necessary to properly fund**
88 **this section, not to exceed one million dollars in any fiscal year. The maximum of one**
89 **million dollars in any fiscal year shall be adjusted annually by the same percentage as the**
90 **increase in the general price level as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban**
91 **Consumers for the United States, or its successor index, as defined and officially recorded**
92 **by the United States Department of Labor or its successor agency.**

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