

HB 940 -- Teach for Missouri Act

Sponsor: Robb

This bill establishes the Teach for Missouri Act which allows graduates of Missouri public higher education institutions who are hired to teach in provisionally accredited or unaccredited school districts and who meet certain criteria to enter into college loan repayment agreements with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The applicant must teach subject areas in schools where student performance on the statewide assessments on those subjects is lower than the state average. For each of the first four years of teaching, one-fourth of the amount of the applicant's loans, not to exceed \$5,000 per year, will be repaid. At the end of the fifth year in a qualifying district, the applicant will receive a \$1,000 stipend. The maximum loan repayment amount and the stipend will be adjusted annually based on the federal Consumer Price Index. The department will establish rules for applicant eligibility, selection criteria, and the content of loan repayment contracts and will create a position for a program coordinator who will identify, recruit, and select potential students. The Teach for Missouri Fund is created in the state treasury, and the General Assembly is required to appropriate an amount necessary, not to exceed \$1 million in any fiscal year, to the fund to implement the provisions of the bill.