

HCS HB 497 -- PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Lewis (6))

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

This bill modifies the existing "Urban Flight and Rural Needs Scholarship Program" by changing the name to the "Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program". The corresponding state treasury fund is also renamed accordingly.

Additional provisions of the existing program are modified including increasing the maximum number of two-year scholarships from 100 in the 2024 academic year to 300 such scholarships by the 2029-30 school term.

Scholarships for 100% of eligible tuition and fees are to be awarded to "eligible students" as defined in the bill who agree to teach in "hard to staff schools" or "hard to staff subject areas" for two years for every year the scholarship is received. This language includes certificated teaching positions for students who are blind or deaf. The repayment rate of the scholarships for a failure to fulfill the agreement is set forth in the bill as 1% over the prevailing prime rate in effect on January 1st with annual adjustments.

This bill also contains additional provisions relating to public schools. Please see the Summary Sheet for a detailed list of the additional language added to the perfected version of the House bill.