

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
AB 169 (O'Donnell) – As Amended March 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Teaching credential: teacher recruitment: Golden State Teacher Grant Program

SUMMARY: Establishes the Golden State Teacher Grant Program to provide one-time grant funds of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to each student enrolled on or after January 1, 2018, in a professional preparation program leading to a preliminary teaching credential, if the student commits to working in a high-need field for four years after he or she receives a teaching credential. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires a grant recipient to agree to teach in a high-need field for four years and to have four years, upon completion of his or her preparation program, to meet that obligation.
- 2) Specifies that a grant recipient shall agree to repay the state five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each year the recipient fails to do the following:
 - a. Be enrolled in or have successfully completed a teacher preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
 - b. While enrolled in the teacher preparation program, maintain good academic standing.
 - c. Upon completion of the teacher preparation program, satisfy the state basic skills proficiency test.
 - d. Complete the required teaching service following completion of his or her preparation program.
- 3) Specifies that nonperformance of the commitment to teach in a high-need field for four years shall be certified by the department.
- 4) Specifies that nonperformance of the commitment to earn a preliminary teaching credential in a high-need field shall be certified by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to the department.
- 5) Specifies that any exceptions to the requirement for repayment shall be defined by the department.
- 6) Defines “high-need field” to mean any of the following:
 - a. Bilingual education.
 - b. Mathematics or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
 - c. Science.
 - d. Special education.
 - e. Other subjects as designated annually by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing based on an analysis of California's teacher supply.
- 7) Makes Legislative findings and declarations regarding the shortage of qualified teachers across the State of California, particularly in the areas of special education, mathematics,

and science, as well as in schools serving high numbers of low-income students, students of color, and English learners.

EXISTING LAW established the Governor's Teaching Fellowships Program which awarded \$20,000 fellowships to candidates who committed to teach in a high priority school for four years. High priority schools are defined as schools in the bottom half of the Academic Performance Index.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: This bill creates the Golden State Teacher Grant Program and awards candidates \$20,000 for a commitment to teach in a teacher shortage area for four years. This bill asks candidates to commit to teach in the following shortage areas, and could include other areas designated by the CTC:

- 1) Bilingual education.
- 2) Mathematics.
- 3) Science.
- 4) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- 5) Special education.

According to the Learning Policy Institute, "The more debt college students incur, the less likely they are to choose to work in a lower-wage profession. A recent study of students at a highly selective undergraduate institution found that incurring debt increased the odds that students chose "substantially higher-salary jobs" and "reduce[d] the probability that students [chose] low-paid 'public interest' jobs." The influence of debt on job choice was "most notable on the propensity to work in the education industry." In other words, the top-performing students were more likely to pursue a career in education when they did not have a large debt. Other research has found that minority students and students from low-income households perceive student loans as a greater burden than other students with similar student debt earning similar salaries. This research suggests that loan forgiveness and service scholarships may be especially effective for recruiting teacher candidates from low-income and minority backgrounds."

According to the author, this bill is critical to encourage more college students to pursue a teaching career. The teacher shortage in California is at a crisis level. School districts across the State of California are experiencing a serious shortage of qualified teachers. Increased demand for K-12 teachers in California comes at a time when the supply of new teachers is at a 12-year low. Enrollment in educator preparation programs has dropped by more than 70% over the last decade, and has fallen below the number of estimated hires by school districts around the state. It is estimated teacher hires for the 2015-16 school year increased by 25 percent from the previous year, while credentials issued to fully prepare new teachers increased by less than 1 percent from the previous year, and enrollment in teacher education programs increased by only about 2 percent. Further, studies indicate that scholarship programs are highly effective at recruiting students who would not otherwise pursue a career in teaching.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Catholic Conference

California Faculty Association
California Language Teachers Association
California State PTA
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Teachers of Tomorrow

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Chelsea Kelley / ED. / (916) 319-2087