



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

# HOUSE BILL 661: Teacher Recruitment and Scholarships

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	April 23, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Horn, Langdon, Elmore, Bryan	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H661-CSTC-25		Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *HB 661 creates a scholarship program for preparation of teachers in hard to staff licensure areas and for hard to staff schools.*

*The PCS for HB 661 codifies the scholarship programs and creates a Commission to establish selection criteria for scholarships and schools.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for HB 661 would establish the North Carolina Competitive Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (Program) as follows:

- **Purpose:** The Program must recruit, prepare, and support North Carolina residents for preparation as highly effective teachers to serve in hard to staff licensure areas and hard to staff schools by providing a scholarship loan to those individuals to attend selected highly effective educator preparation programs.
- **Administration:** The Program is administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) in collaboration with the North Carolina Competitive Teaching Scholarship Loan Commission (Commission). The Director of the Commission is responsible for recruitment and coordination of the program, including recruiting students and engaging with the community.
- **Commission:** The Commission is established to develop criteria and select students and programs for participation in the Program. The 11 member Commission includes the following:
  - A dean of a UNC institution School of Education, appointed by the President of The University of North Carolina.
  - A dean of a School of Education at a private college or university in the State, appointed by the President of the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.
  - The North Carolina Teacher of the Year.
  - A teacher who graduated from a teacher education program in the State within the last 3 years, appointed by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
  - The North Carolina Principal of the Year.
  - A principal, appointed by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
  - The North Carolina Superintendent of the Year.
  - A member representing business and industry, appointed by the Governor.
  - A local board of education member appointed by the State Board of Education.
  - The chair of the Board of the Authority.

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- The director of the Program, who shall serve as chair.
- **Commission Responsibilities.** – The Commission is responsible for determining stringent selection standards for the following:
  - Scholarships and selection of student recipients. – Standards must be based on multiple measures, including GPA, performance on relevant assessment, experience, accomplishments and other criteria demonstrating qualities correlated with highly effective teaching.
  - Educator Preparation Program where selected students may attend. – Standards must be based on multiple measures, including objective measures of program quality, measurable impact of graduates on student learning, program accreditation, and measurable success of the program's clinical component.
- **Awards.** – Scholarships of up to \$8,500 per year are awarded to students to attended selected educator preparation programs for completion of a program leading to teacher licensure as follows:
  - High school seniors – Up to 4 years.
  - Community college students applying for transfers to an educator preparation program: Up to 2 years.
  - Individuals with bachelor's degrees seeking preparation: Up to 2 years.
- **Scholarship terms.** – Recipients must commit to teaching 4 years in a hard to staff school or hard to staff licensure area in North Carolina. A recipient who fails to fulfill the 4 year commitment within 7 years of graduation must repay the loan. The Authority may forgive a loan under certain extenuating circumstances.
- **Determination of hard to staff schools and licensure areas.** - The State Board of Education (SBE) must annually develop a list of hard to staff schools and licensure areas based on at least the following criteria:
  - Hard to staff schools: Annual teacher turnover rates, teaching positions unfilled for more than half of the school year, teachers with entry professional educator licenses, percentage of students failing to meet expected growth, percentage of students scoring below grade level on standardized assessments, and school performance grade on the annual school report card.
  - Hard to staff licensure areas: Number of available positions in a licensure area relative to the number of current and anticipated teachers in that area of licensure.
- **Reporting.** – The Commission and Authority must annually report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on information about the Program, including loans awarded, placement and repayment rates, and selected school outcomes, by program.
- **Initial Awards.** – Scholarship applications would be available by December 31, 2015, and initial scholarships would be awarded by April 1, 2016.
- **Appropriation.** – For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$200,000 is appropriated to establish the Program. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, \$1 million in recurring funds is appropriated, with \$200,000 available for administrative costs. Funds may be supplemented from donations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** HB 661 would become effective July 1, 2015.