

HOUSE BILL NO. 6378

September 20, 2022, Introduced by Reps. Harris and Posthumus and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to establish a future educators scholarship program for certain college students who commit to pursuing careers in education; to prescribe conditions for repayment of the scholarships in certain circumstances; to provide for the administration of the scholarship program; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "future educators
2 scholarship act".

1 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Department" means the department of education.

3 (b) "Eligible educator preparation program" means an
4 institution of higher education that meets all of the following:

5 (i) Is a public or nonpublic institution of higher education in
6 this state.

7 (ii) Has an established school of education with an educator
8 preparation program approved by the department.

9 (iii) Enrolls 1 or more future educator scholarship recipients.

10 (iv) Has not increased tuition and fee rates above the
11 limitations described in section 265 of the school aid act of 1979,
12 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1865.

13 (c) "High school equivalency certificate" means that term as
14 defined in section 4 of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL
15 388.1604.

16 Sec. 3. The future educators scholarship program is created,
17 to be administered by the department. It is the intent of the
18 legislature that funds appropriated for use in this program be used
19 to award scholarships to offset tuition costs for individuals who
20 are working toward earning initial teacher certifications.

21 Sec. 4. To establish initial eligibility for a scholarship
22 awarded under this act, an individual must meet all of the
23 following conditions by the date of enrollment described in
24 subdivision (b):

25 (a) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or
26 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency
27 certificate.

28 (b) Be admitted to an eligible educator preparation program
29 and be in the first semester of that program; be working toward a

1 teacher certification; and be enrolled in enough coursework to earn
2 at least 24 credits in an academic year or the equivalent of full-
3 time participation for individuals enrolled in an alternative
4 certification program, as defined by the department.

5 (c) Not have previously earned a teacher certification.

6 (d) Timely complete a grant application in a form and manner
7 prescribed by the department of treasury.

8 (e) Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
9 for the enrollment period described in subdivision (b).

10 (f) Timely apply for all available gift aid for the enrollment
11 period described in subdivision (b).

12 (g) Agree to repay any funds received from scholarships
13 awarded under this act if the individual does not maintain
14 enrollment in an eligible educator preparation program, the
15 individual does not successfully complete an eligible educator
16 preparation program, or the individual does not complete the work
17 requirement described in section 9.

18 (h) Have a high school or college grade point average of at
19 least 3.0.

20 (i) Be a resident of this state, as determined for purposes of
21 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

22 Sec. 5. To establish continuing eligibility for a scholarship
23 awarded under this act, an individual must meet all of the
24 following conditions:

25 (a) Maintain continuous enrollment in an eligible educator
26 preparation program and earn at least 24 credits in an academic
27 year or the equivalent of full-time participation for individuals
28 enrolled in an alternative certification program, as defined by the
29 department, excluding any period of time missed due to a medical or

1 other emergency, as determined by the department of treasury.

2 (b) Maintain satisfactory academic progress, including a grade
3 point average of at least 3.0, in courses provided by the eligible
4 educator preparation program and meet requirements established by
5 the eligible educator preparation program.

6 (c) Participate in relevant academic and career advising
7 programs offered by the eligible educator preparation program.

8 (d) Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
9 for each academic year in which the individual receives a
10 scholarship under this act.

11 (e) Timely apply for all available gift aid for each academic
12 year in which the individual applies for a scholarship under this
13 act.

14 (f) Maintain residency in this state, as determined for
15 purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

16 Sec. 6. A scholarship awarded under this act must not exceed
17 \$10,000.00 per academic year or the cost of tuition at the in-
18 district resident rate plus other required fees, as determined by
19 the department of treasury, at the eligible educator preparation
20 program attended, whichever is less.

21 Sec. 7. Scholarships awarded under this act must be
22 distributed to eligible educator preparation programs on behalf of
23 an eligible recipient on a timeline determined by the department of
24 treasury.

25 Sec. 8. Pending available funds, applicants may renew a
26 scholarship award for up to 3 years, or until program completion,
27 whichever comes first.

28 Sec. 9. To be an eligible recipient of a scholarship awarded
29 under this act, an individual must pledge to work as a certified

1 teacher in a public school, a nonpublic school, or a qualifying
2 public preschool program in this state and must meet 1 of the
3 following work requirements:

4 (a) For a scholarship recipient who received an award for 1
5 academic year, 3 years of work as a certified teacher in a public
6 school, a nonpublic school, or a qualifying public preschool
7 program in this state.

8 (b) For a scholarship recipient who received an award for 2
9 academic years, 4 years of work as a certified teacher in a public
10 school, a nonpublic school, or a qualifying public preschool
11 program in this state.

12 (c) For a scholarship recipient who received an award for 3
13 academic years, 5 years of work as a certified teacher in a public
14 school, a nonpublic school, or a qualifying public preschool
15 program in this state.

16 (d) For a scholarship recipient who works in a critical needs
17 district, 3 years of work as a certified teacher. As used in this
18 subdivision, "critical needs district" means a district with a
19 median household income in the lowest quartile in each prosperity
20 region, as determined by the department.

21 Sec. 10. If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this
22 act does not maintain enrollment in an eligible educator
23 preparation program as required under section 5(a), does not
24 successfully complete an eligible educator preparation program, or
25 does not meet the work requirement described in section 9, all
26 scholarship amounts received under this act convert to a 0%
27 interest loan that must be repaid to this state within 10 years.
28 The amount of repayment must be reduced proportionate to the number
29 of years worked in schools or qualifying public preschool programs

1 in this state as a certificated teacher out of 5 years. The
2 department of treasury shall develop guidance to enforce this
3 section.

4 Sec. 11. An individual may not concurrently receive funding
5 through programs funded under this act and grow your own programs
6 funded under section 27b of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94,
7 MCL 388.1627b.

8 Sec. 12. If the amount appropriated for awarding scholarships
9 under this act is not sufficient to fully fund those awards, it is
10 the intent of the legislature that there be appropriated from the
11 educator fellowship public provider fund created in section 27d of
12 the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1627d, or the
13 educator fellowship private provider fund created in section 27e of
14 the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1627e, as
15 applicable, the amount necessary to fully fund these programs. The
16 state budget director shall provide notification to the house and
17 senate appropriations subcommittees on K to 12 school aid and the
18 house and senate fiscal agencies for any additional appropriation
19 described in this section.

20 Sec. 13. It is the intent of the legislature that,
21 notwithstanding section 17b of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA
22 94, MCL 388.1617b, the department of treasury shall make payments
23 under this act on a schedule determined by the department of
24 treasury.