



## Legislative Bulletin.....July 9, 2003

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### H.R. 2211—Ready to Teach Act of 2003 (Gingrey)

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, under a structured rule. The rule provides for one hour of general debate and makes in order five amendments (described below).

**Summary:** H.R. 2211 reauthorizes Title II of the Higher Education Act (HEA), which includes teacher training programs and other teacher quality provisions. The bill makes changes to two current grant programs (Part A, Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants for States and Partnerships and Part B, Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology) and creates a new Part C, Centers of Excellence.

#### Part A, Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants:

- Authorizes competitive grants to: 1) increase student academic achievement; 2) improve teacher quality through improved teacher preparation and professional development; 3) increase accountability for teacher preparation programs; and 4) recruit highly qualified teachers.
- Reserves 45 percent of funds for state grants (same as current law). Funds could be used for a variety of activities, including reforming teacher preparation programs, reforming teacher certification requirements, providing alternative teacher certification, merit pay for teachers, innovative programs, and teacher recruitment and retention activities. Includes a new requirement for states receiving a grant to annually evaluate the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs and professional development activities and to make that information publicly available.
- Reserves 45 percent of funds for partnership grants (same as current law). Eligible partnerships must include a high quality teacher preparation program at a higher education institution, a school of arts and sciences, and a high need local education agency, as in current law, but H.R. 2311 also adds a public or private educational organization as a required partner. At least 50 percent of the partnership funds must directly benefit the local educational agency in the partnership. Required uses of funds include one or more of the following: reforming teacher preparation programs,

providing preservice and in-service clinical experiences for teachers, and professional development and preparation (the latter being a new addition to current law). The bill also lists a variety of allowable uses of funds.

- Reserves 10 percent of funds for teacher recruitment grants (same as current law). Eligible applicants include states or partnerships, with preference given to applicants who assure they will recruit a high percentage of minority students. Funds must be used to award scholarships to students for tuition, room, board, or other expenses related to completion of an undergraduate teacher preparation program at a higher education institution and provide support services or to develop and implement mechanisms to assist high-need local educational agencies and schools in recruiting highly qualified teachers. Recipients of scholarships would be required to teach in a high-need school district for one year plus the time period of the scholarship or to repay the scholarship after completing the teacher preparation program.
- Makes some changes to current law reporting requirements, including requiring institutional report cards to include a comparison of student pass rates and average scores to other institutions in the state and requiring the Governor of a state to attest to the reliability of the data reported to the Secretary of Education.
- **Authorizes \$300 million for FY 2004 and “such sums” for subsequent years (same as current law). These programs received \$89.4 million in FY03 and the Administration’s FY04 request is \$90 million.**

Part B, Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology:

- Adds as an allowable use of fund developing programs that help teachers “use technology to collect, manage, and analyze data to improve teaching, learning, and decisionmaking for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement.”
- **Extends the authorization of “such sums” through fiscal year 2008 (the program received \$62.5 million in FY03. No funding was requested for this program in the Administration’s FY04 budget).**

Part C, Centers of Excellence:

- Creates a new grant program for the creation of “Centers of Excellence” at minority-serving institutions (Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, etc.).
- Grants must be used for one or more of the following: reforming teacher preparation programs, preservice clinical experience and mentoring of prospective teachers, teacher and principal retention, awarding scholarships to students in teacher preparation programs, disseminating effective teacher preparation practices and teacher certification test preparation strategies, or other activities authorized under Part A and Part B.
- Establishes a minimum grant amount of \$500,000 and limits administrative expenses to 2 percent of the grant funds.
- Authorizes appropriations of \$10 million for FY04 and “such sums” for each of the four succeeding fiscal years.

**Amendments:**

**Gingrey #2 (10 minutes):** Makes primarily technical corrections to the bill. Adds language to ensure that teachers are able to understand scientifically based research and its applicability; requires partnership grant applications to contain a certification from the partner local educational agency stating that it will “directly benefit” from the proposed grant activities; ensures that partnership grant funds are used only to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local funds that would otherwise be used for teacher preparation activities, and requires states to include average raw score data in their reports.

**Millender-McDonald #1 (10 minutes):** Requires applications for partnership grants to also include information on how the partnership will design and implement a clinical program component, design and implement an induction program for new teachers, and collect and use data regarding teacher retention in the area served by the partnership.

**Honda #4 (10 minutes):** Adds mentoring programs as an allowable use of partnership grant funds. Such programs would: establish and implement minimum qualifications for mentors; provide training and stipends for mentors, provide mentoring programs for teachers in their first three years of teaching, provide regular and ongoing opportunities for mentors and mentees to observe each other’s teaching methods in classroom settings during the school day, establish an evaluation and accountability plan for activities, and report to the Secretary on an annual basis regarding the partnership’s progress.

**Baca #7 (10 minutes):** Allows Part B funds to be used to train teachers to use supplemental multilingual computer software to teach limited English proficient students.

**Meeks #5 (10 minutes):** Allows grantees to use Teacher Recruitment funds to conduct outreach and coordinate with inner city and rural secondary schools to encourage students to pursue teaching as a career.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2211 was introduced on May 22, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The bill was approved by the Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness by voice vote on June 4 and by the full committee (also by voice vote) on June 19.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that H.R. 2211 authorizes about \$1.8 billion over the 2004-2008 period and that appropriation of the authorized levels would result in additional outlays of \$1.3 billion over the 2004-2008 period.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** Yes, the bill creates a new Centers of Excellence Program.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee on Education and the Workforce, in House Report 108-183, cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (“general welfare”).

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## **H.R. 438—Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2003 (Wilson of South Carolina)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, under a modified closed rule. The rule provides for one hour of general debate and makes in order one amendment (described below).

**Summary:** H.R. 438 increases from \$5,000 to \$17,500 the total amount of loan forgiveness under the Federal Family Education Loan Program and the Federal Direct Loan Program that may be given to certain teachers in high-poverty school districts. Under the bill, “highly qualified” (as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act) math, science, and special education teachers in a Title I school with a poverty level exceeding 40 would be eligible for the increased level of loan forgiveness.

Teachers receiving loan forgiveness would be required to teach for five years or repay forgiven loan amounts. Loan forgiveness payments must be made at the completion of the second year of the five-year service, increasing incrementally over the next four years and resulting in total payment by the completion of the fifth year of service.

The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to notify school districts eligible for the Small Rural Achievement Program of the availability of teacher loan forgiveness and encourage them to notify their teachers.

**Additional Background:** Under current law, teachers who teach for five years in a public or private Title I school with a poverty level exceeding 30 percent are eligible for up to \$5,000 in federal loan forgiveness.

### **Amendments:**

**George Miller/Boehner #2 (10 minutes):** Adds to those eligible for the expanded \$17,500 loan forgiveness reading teachers who have obtained a separate reading instruction credential in the state in which they are employed and are certified as being proficient in the essential components of reading instruction (as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 438 was introduced on January 29, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The bill was approved by the Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness by voice vote on June 4 and by the full committee (also by voice vote) on June 10.

**Administration Position:** The legislation reflects a proposal included in the Administration’s FY04 budget request.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that H.R. 438 will increase direct (mandatory) spending by \$340 million over the 2003-2013 period. The estimate includes savings that will result from the requirement that teachers receiving loan forgiveness be “highly qualified” (estimated savings of \$110 million over ten years).

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** The bill expands a current-law loan forgiveness program for teachers.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee on Education and the Workforce, in House Report 108-182, cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (“general welfare”).

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