

EMERGENCY REQUEST of Senate Majority Leader

Senate Bill No. 511—Senators Roberson,
Kieckhefer, Harris and Ford

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Paul Anderson,
Kirkpatrick and Hambrick

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; making an appropriation to provide grants to universities, colleges and providers of alternative licensure programs in this State to award scholarships to students entering certain teaching programs; prescribing the manner in which such scholarships must be awarded; requiring a college or university that receives a grant to repay a certain amount if a scholarship recipient leaves the teaching program before graduating; providing for the payment of a certain amount to such a college or university if a scholarship recipient graduates on schedule from the teaching program; making an appropriation to provide certain incentives for newly hired teachers who are employed to teach in certain schools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Sections 7-10 of this bill establish the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to students pursuing teaching degrees at a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program in this State. **Section 7** establishes the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program Account in the State General Fund to receive money to pay for Teach Nevada Scholarships, and **section 11** of this bill makes an appropriation of money to the Account. **Section 8** authorizes a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that offers an eligible teaching program in this State to apply to the State Board of Education for a grant of money to fund scholarships. A teaching program is eligible to receive a grant if: (1) completing the program makes a student eligible to obtain a license to teach kindergarten, any grade from grades 1 through 12 or in the subject area of special education in this State; or (2) the program allows a student to specialize in the subject area of early childhood education. **Section 8** requires the State Board to: (1) establish the number of scholarships available each year based on available money; and (2) review such applications and award such grants. **Section 8** allows a student who attends or who has been accepted to a university, college or other provider of alternative licensure that receives a grant to apply for a Teach Nevada Scholarship.

Section 9 of this bill requires a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that receives such a grant to award scholarships to approved students at the beginning of each semester by: (1) disbursing 75 percent of the scholarship amount for the semester to the scholarship recipient; and (2) placing the remaining 25 percent of the scholarship in a trust account. **Section 9** allows a scholarship recipient to claim the money in the trust account if the



scholarship recipient: (1) completes the program for which he or she was awarded a scholarship; (2) is employed at a public school in this State as a teacher of pupils in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12 for the 5 school years immediately following graduation; and (3) meets any other requirements prescribed by the State Board. **Section 10** of this bill: (1) requires a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that awards a scholarship to repay a certain amount to the State Board if the scholarship recipient leaves the teaching program offered by the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program; and (2) requires the State Board, to the extent that money is available, to pay a certain amount to the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that awards a scholarship if the scholarship recipient completes the teaching program offered by the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program on schedule. A university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that receives such a payment must use the money to pay costs associated with its teaching program.

Existing law requires the board of trustees of a school district to establish a program of performance pay and enhanced compensation for the recruitment and retention of licensed teachers and administrators. (NRS 391.168) **Section 11** of this bill appropriates money to the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation in the State General Fund. **Section 12** of this bill requires the State Board to award a grant of such money to each board of trustees of a school district that applies for such a grant. **Section 12** requires a board of trustees of a school district that receives such a grant to use such money to provide incentives to recruit teachers to certain schools that have a high need for teachers through its program of performance pay and enhanced compensation. Specifically, a board of trustees that receives a grant must use the money to: (1) increase the base salary of newly hired teachers at such schools for their first 2 years of employment; and (2) provide professional development to such teachers during their first 2 years of employment.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3 to 6, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

Sec. 3. *“Account” means the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program Account created pursuant to section 7 of this act.*

Sec. 4. *“Other provider of an alternative licensure program” means an entity, other than a university or college, which has been approved by the Commission in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 391.019 to provide education and*



training to a student which will lead to an alternative route to licensure for the student.

Sec. 5. *“Scholarship recipient” means the recipient of a Teach Nevada Scholarship awarded pursuant to section 9 of this act.*

Sec. 6. *“Teach Nevada Scholarship” means a scholarship awarded by a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program to a student pursuant to section 9 of this act.*

Sec. 7. 1. *The Teach Nevada Scholarship Program Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Account must be administered by the State Board.*

2. The interest and income earned on:

(a) The money in the Account, after deducting any applicable charges; and

(b) Unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund,

↪ must be credited to the Account.

3. Any money remaining in the Account at the end of a fiscal year including, without limitation, any unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund does not revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Account must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

4. The State Board may accept gifts and grants of money from any source for deposit in the Account.

5. The money in the Account may only be used to award grants to universities, colleges and other providers of an alternative licensure program that are approved to award Teach Nevada Scholarships pursuant to section 9 of this act.

Sec. 8. 1. *A public or private university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program in this State is eligible to apply to the State Board for a grant from the Account to award scholarships to students who attend the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program to complete a program offered by the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that has been approved by the State Board and which:*

(a) Upon completion makes a student eligible to obtain a license to teach kindergarten, any grade from grades 1 through 12 or in the subject area of special education in this State; or

(b) Allows a student to specialize in the subject area of early childhood education.

2. The State Board shall:



(a) Establish the number of Teach Nevada Scholarships that will be available each year based upon the amount of money available in the Account.

(b) Review all applications submitted pursuant to subsection 1 and award a grant of money from the Account to an approved university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program to the extent that money is available in an amount determined by the State Board.

3. The State Board may prioritize the award of grants from the Account to a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that demonstrates the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program will provide scholarships to a greater number of recipients who:

(a) Are veterans or the spouses of veterans;

(b) Intend to teach in public schools in this State which have the highest shortage of teachers;

(c) Have been economically disadvantaged or belong to a racial or ethnic minority group; or

(d) Will be eligible to teach in a subject area for which there is a shortage of teachers. Such a subject area may include, without limitation, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, special education or English as a second language.

4. A student may apply for a Teach Nevada Scholarship from a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that receives a grant from the Account only if the student attends or has been accepted to attend the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program to complete a program described in subsection 1. An application submitted by the student must identify the program to be completed and the date by which the student must complete the program to finish on schedule.

5. The State Board may adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 9. *1. Each university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that is awarded a grant of money from the Account pursuant to section 8 of this act shall use the money to award Teach Nevada Scholarships to students who will attend the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program with the intent to complete a program described in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act. Such students may include, without limitation:*

(a) Recent high school graduates who enroll in a program described in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act;



(b) Students who are enrolled at a university or college who change their academic program or major to a program described in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act;

(c) Students who have completed some credits at a university or college and who enroll in a program described in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act;

(d) Students who possess a bachelor's degree in a field other than education who pursue an alternative route to licensure as a teacher;

(e) Veterans and the spouses of veterans; and

(f) Students who have had some experience working in a classroom, including, without limitation, as a paraprofessional or substitute teacher.

2. A university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program may award a Teach Nevada Scholarship to a scholarship recipient in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 per semester or \$24,000 in the aggregate.

3. A university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that awards a Teach Nevada Scholarship shall, at the beginning of each semester:

(a) Disburse to the scholarship recipient 75 percent of the scholarship money awarded to the scholarship recipient for the semester; and

(b) Deposit 25 percent of such money into a trust account established for the scholarship recipient.

4. A scholarship recipient may only receive the money deposited in the trust account established pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3 if the scholarship recipient:

(a) Completes the program for which he or she was awarded the scholarship;

(b) Maintains employment as a teacher at a public school in this State for 5 consecutive school years immediately following completion of the program; and

(c) Meets any other requirements established by the State Board.

5. To receive the money placed into the trust account pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3, a scholarship recipient who meets the requirements set forth in subsection 4 must request the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that established the trust account to withdraw the money within 120 days after the 5-year anniversary of the date on which the scholarship recipient completed the program for which he or she was awarded the scholarship. Any money in a trust account



that is not claimed within that time reverts to the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that established the trust account and must be used only to pay any costs associated with a program described in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act.

6. If a scholarship recipient fails to meet the requirements of subsection 4, the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that established the trust account for the scholarship recipient must transfer any money in the trust account to the State Board for credit to the Account.

Sec. 10. *1. If a scholarship recipient does not complete the program for which the scholarship was awarded for any reason, including, without limitation, withdrawing from the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program or pursuing another course of study, the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that awarded the scholarship must pay to the State Board for credit to the Account:*

(a) Any amount of money placed in a trust account on behalf of the scholarship recipient pursuant to section 9 of this act;

(b) Any amount of money that the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program has received but has not yet disbursed to the scholarship recipient pursuant to section 9 of this act; and

(c) An amount of money equal to the total amount of money disbursed to the scholarship recipient pursuant to section 9 of this act or \$1,000, whichever is less.

2. If a scholarship recipient completes the program for which the scholarship was awarded on schedule, as described in the application for the scholarship submitted pursuant to section 8 of this act, to the extent that money is available for this purpose, the State Board shall pay \$1,000 to the university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program that awarded the scholarship. Any money received by a university, college or other provider of an alternative licensure program pursuant to this section must be used to pay costs associated with providing a program described in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act.

Sec. 11. *1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program Account created by section 7 of this act the following sums:*

- (a) For the Fiscal Year 2015-2016..... \$2,500,000*
- (b) For the Fiscal Year 2016-2017..... \$2,500,000*



2. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation created by NRS 387.031 the following sums:

- (a) For the Fiscal Year 2015-2016..... \$5,000,000
- (b) For the Fiscal Year 2016-2017..... \$5,000,000

Sec. 12. 1. On or before August 31, 2015, the board of trustees of a school district may apply to the State Board of Education for a grant of money from the money appropriated to the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation pursuant to section 11 of this act to provide financial incentives to newly hired teachers as described in subsection 2. Each application submitted pursuant to this section must include the number of teachers to whom the board of trustees intends to provide such incentives. On or before October 31, 2015, the State Board shall distribute the money to each board of trustees of a school district that submits an application in proportion to the number of teachers to whom the board of trustees plans to provide incentives.

2. Each board of trustees of a school district that receives a grant of money pursuant to subsection 1 must use the money to pay for incentives to newly hired teachers through the program of performance pay and enhanced compensation for the recruitment and retention of licensed teachers and administrators established by the board of trustees pursuant to NRS 391.168. A board of trustees of a school district may only use such money to provide incentives to licensed teachers who:

(a) Were not employed by the board of trustees during the 2014-2015 school year; and

(b) Are employed full-time to teach in a school that:

(1) Is a Title I school as defined in NRS 385.3467; or

(2) Received one of the two lowest possible ratings indicating underperformance of a public school, as determined by the Department of Education pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools, for the 2015-2016 school year.

3. An incentive provided pursuant to subsection 2 may be used to increase the base salary of a teacher for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per school year. A teacher who receives such an incentive is not entitled to continue to receive such an incentive after the 2016-2017 school year, and the board of trustees of a school district is not required to pay such an incentive after that school year.

4. The board of trustees of a school district that provides an incentive pursuant to subsection 2 shall provide professional



development to each teacher who receives such an incentive for each school year for which the teacher receives the incentive.

Sec. 13. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

