

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 4398**

(SENATE AUTHORS: DRAHEIM)

DATE  
03/16/2020

D-PG

Introduction and first reading  
 Referred to Higher Education Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to higher education; modifying certain teacher shortage programs;

1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections 136A.1275, subdivision 1, by adding

1.4 subdivisions; 136A.1791, subdivisions 1, 2, 3; Minnesota Statutes 2019 Supplement,

1.5 section 136A.1275, subdivision 3.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.1275, subdivision 1, is amended to

1.8 read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** (a) The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education

1.10 must establish a grant program for student teaching stipends for low-income students enrolled

1.11 in a Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board-approved teacher preparation

1.12 program who intend to teach in a shortage area after graduating and receiving their teaching

1.13 license or belong to ~~an underrepresented~~ a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the

1.14 teacher workforce.

1.15 (b) "Teacher shortage area" means a license field, economic development region, or

1.16 license area within an economic development region within Minnesota defined as a shortage

1.17 area by the Department of Education where there is an inadequate supply of elementary or

1.18 secondary school teachers, as determined by the Professional Educator Licensing and

1.19 Standards Board, using data collected for the teacher supply and demand report under section

1.20 127A.05, subdivision 6, or other surveys conducted by the Department of Education that

1.21 provide indicators for teacher supply and demand 122A.091, subdivision 5.

1.22 (c) "Racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the teacher workforce" means a racial

1.23 or ethnic group for which the aggregate percentage of Minnesota teachers of that racial or

2.1 ethnic group is lower than the aggregate percentage of Minnesota kindergarten through  
2.2 grade 12 students of that racial or ethnic group.

2.3 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2019 Supplement, section 136A.1275, subdivision 3, is amended  
2.4 to read:

2.5 Subd. 3. **Administration; repayment.** (a) The commissioner must establish an  
2.6 application process and other guidelines for implementing this program.

2.7 (b) The commissioner must determine each academic year the stipend amount up to  
2.8 \$7,500 based on the amount of available funding, the number of eligible applicants, and the  
2.9 financial need of the applicants.

2.10 (c) If there are insufficient funds to provide an award to all eligible participants, the  
2.11 commissioner shall prioritize the awards to eligible participants based on:

2.12 (1) the financial need of an applicant, considering the applicant's income and household  
2.13 size;

2.14 (2) whether the applicant is employed in an economic development region that is a  
2.15 teacher shortage area;

2.16 (3) whether the applicant is employed in a teacher shortage area in the applicant's  
2.17 economic development region;

2.18 (4) whether the applicant is employed in a statewide teacher shortage area; and

2.19 (5) the statewide distribution of funds.

2.20 (d) The percentage of the total award funds available at the beginning of the fiscal year  
2.21 reserved for teacher candidates who identify as belonging to a racial or ethnic group  
2.22 underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce must be equal to or greater than the  
2.23 total percentage of students of racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in the Minnesota  
2.24 teacher workforce as measured under section 120B.35, subdivision 3. If this percentage  
2.25 cannot be met because of a lack of qualifying candidates, the remaining amount may be  
2.26 awarded to teacher candidates who intend to teach in a shortage area.

2.27 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.1275, is amended by adding a subdivision  
2.28 to read:

2.29 Subd. 4. Use of report on teacher shortage areas. The Professional Educator Licensing  
2.30 and Standards Board shall use data collected for the teacher supply and demand report under  
2.31 section 122A.091, subdivision 5, to identify teacher shortage areas as defined in subdivision

3.1 1, paragraph (b). The methodology used to identify shortage areas must be consistent with  
 3.2 the methodology used to report teacher shortage areas to the United States Department of  
 3.3 Education. The teacher shortage areas identified under this subdivision must be posted on  
 3.4 the board's website.

3.5 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.1275, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 3.6 to read:

3.7 Subd. 5. **Annual reporting.** By February 1 of each year, the commissioner must report  
 3.8 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction  
 3.9 over E-12 and higher education finance and policy on the number of individuals who received  
 3.10 grants under this section, the race or ethnicity of the teachers participating in the program,  
 3.11 the licensure areas and economic development regions in which the teachers taught, the  
 3.12 amount paid to teacher candidates participating in the program, and other summary data  
 3.13 identified by the commissioner as outcome indicators.

3.14 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.1791, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) The terms used in this section have the meanings given  
 3.16 them in this subdivision.

3.17 (b) "Qualified educational loan" means a government, commercial, or foundation loan  
 3.18 for actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable educational and living expenses related to a  
 3.19 teacher's preparation ~~or further education.~~

3.20 (c) "School district" means an independent school district, special school district,  
 3.21 intermediate district, education district, special education cooperative, service cooperative,  
 3.22 a cooperative center for vocational education, or a charter school located in Minnesota.

3.23 (d) "Teacher" means an individual holding a teaching license issued by the Professional  
 3.24 Educator Licensing and Standards Board who is employed by a school district to provide  
 3.25 classroom instruction.

3.26 (e) "Teacher shortage area" means:

3.27 ~~(1) the licensure fields and economic development regions reported by the commissioner~~  
 3.28 ~~of education as experiencing a teacher shortage; and~~

3.29 ~~(2) economic development regions where there is a shortage of licensed teachers who~~  
 3.30 ~~reflect the racial or ethnic diversity of students in the region as reported by the commissioner~~  
 3.31 ~~of education~~ a license field, economic development region, or license field within an  
 3.32 economic development region where there is an inadequate supply of elementary or secondary

4.1 school teachers, as determined by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board,  
4.2 using data collected for the teacher supply and demand report under section 122A.091,  
4.3 subdivision 5.

4.4 (f) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education unless  
4.5 indicated otherwise.

4.6 (g) "Racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the teacher workforce" means a racial  
4.7 or ethnic group for which the aggregate percentage of Minnesota teachers of that racial or  
4.8 ethnic group is lower than the aggregate percentage of Minnesota kindergarten through  
4.9 grade 12 students of that racial or ethnic group.

4.10 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.1791, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

4.11 Subd. 2. **Program established; administration.** The commissioner shall establish and  
4.12 administer a teacher shortage loan forgiveness program. A teacher is eligible for the program  
4.13 if the teacher is teaching in an identified teacher shortage area under subdivision 3 or belongs  
4.14 to a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce and complies  
4.15 with the requirements of this section.

4.16 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.1791, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

4.17 Subd. 3. **Use of report on teacher shortage areas.** ~~The commissioner of education~~  
4.18 Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board shall use data collected for the teacher  
4.19 supply and demand report to the legislature under section 122A.091, subdivision 5, to  
4.20 identify the licensure fields and economic development regions in Minnesota experiencing  
4.21 a teacher shortage areas as defined in subdivision 1, paragraph (e). The methodology used  
4.22 to identify shortage areas must be consistent with the methodology used to report teacher  
4.23 shortage areas to the United States Department of Education. The teacher shortage areas  
4.24 identified under this subdivision shall be posted on the board's website.