

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 688 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, MADDEN, PROBST, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, CIRESI, GUENST, DELLOSO, HOHENSTEIN, WARREN, FREEMAN, KINKEAD, DEASY, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KIM, CONKLIN, TAKAC AND STURLA, MARCH 23, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," establishing the PA Teach TEACHER <--
6 PIPELINE Scholarship Program; AND imposing duties on the <--
7 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the State <--
8 System of Higher Education; and making an appropriation
9 CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. <--

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
13 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
14 article to read:

ARTICLE XX-L

16 PA TEACH TEACHER PIPELINE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM <--

17 Section 2001-L. Purpose.

18 The purpose of this article is to help ensure an excellent
19 education within the public schools of this Commonwealth by
20 addressing the lack of teachers that has jeopardized the

1 provision of the constitutionally required thorough and  
2 efficient system of public education afforded to all children in  
3 this Commonwealth.

4 Section 2002-L. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
6 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Academic year." A complete school year commencing on or  
9 after August 1 of the calendar year.

10 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
11 Agency.

12 "Cost of attendance." The direct and indirect costs relating  
13 to attendance at an institution. The term includes tuition and  
14 fees, room and board or living expenses, books, supplies,  
15 transportation, loan fees, the documented cost of a personal  
16 computer and other school-related miscellaneous expenses,  
17 allowance for child care or other dependent care, costs related  
18 to a disability, eligible study-abroad programs, costs related  
19 to student teaching and any other costs approved by the agency.

20 "Eligible student." An individual who meets the eligibility  
21 criteria specified in section 2004-L.

22 "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." THE TERM INCLUDES ANY OF <--  
23 THE FOLLOWING:

24 (1) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A.

25 (2) A UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER  
26 EDUCATION ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE XX-A.

27 (3) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF  
28 PITTSBURGH, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OR ANY  
29 OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DESIGNATED AS "STATE-  
30 RELATED" BY THE COMMONWEALTH.

1           (4) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OPERATED NOT FOR  
2           PROFIT, LOCATED IN AND INCORPORATED OR CHARTERED BY THE  
3           COMMONWEALTH AND ENTITLED TO CONFER DEGREES AS SPECIFIED IN  
4           24 PA.C.S. § 6505 (RELATING TO POWER TO CONFER DEGREES) AND  
5           TO APPLY ITSELF THE DESIGNATION "COLLEGE" OR "UNIVERSITY" AS  
6           PROVIDED FOR BY THE STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED  
7           BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER 24 PA.C.S. CH. 65  
8           (RELATING TO PRIVATE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES).  
9           "Program." The PA ~~Teach~~ TEACHER PIPELINE Scholarship Program <--  
10          established under section 2003-L.  
11          ~~"State system." The State System of Higher Education~~ <--  
12          ~~established under Article XX A.~~  
13          "PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CAREER AND <--  
14          TECHNICAL SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL  
15          CHARTER SCHOOL OR CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL.  
16          "TEACHER." AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS AN INSTRUCTIONAL  
17          CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER THIS ACT  
18          AND IS EMPLOYED FULL TIME AS A TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL OR  
19          PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY AND PROVIDES  
20          LEARNING EXPERIENCES DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS DURING THE  
21          INSTRUCTIONAL DAY.  
22          Section 2003-L. PA ~~Teach~~ TEACHER PIPELINE Scholarship Program. <--  
23          (a) Establishment.--The PA ~~Teach~~ TEACHER PIPELINE <--  
24          Scholarship Program is established within the agency.  
25          (b) Scholarship grant.--The agency shall provide a  
26          scholarship grant to an eligible student who is a resident of  
27          this Commonwealth. The scholarship grant shall be applied  
28          against the cost of attendance. The scholarship grant shall be  
29          for the amount provided under section 2004-L.  
30          (c) Other funding.--Prior to receiving a scholarship grant

1 ~~under this article, a student must also apply for Federal Pell~~ <--  
2 ~~Grants and State grants available to cover the cost of~~  
3 ~~attendance, as determined by the agency.~~

4 ~~(d) Order of financial aid.--An institution of the State~~ <--  
5 ~~system shall apply a scholarship grant received by an eligible~~  
6 ~~student with other financial aid in the following order:~~

7 ~~(1) Federal Pell Grant or any successor program.~~

8 ~~(2) Pennsylvania State grants.~~

9 ~~(3) Institutional aid.~~

10 ~~(4) Private scholarships.~~

11 ~~(5) Scholarship grants awarded under section 2004-L.~~

12 ~~(6) Federal work study.~~

13 ~~(7) Federal student loans.~~

14 ~~(1) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL APPLY THE~~ <--  
15 ~~FOLLOWING STUDENT AID GRANTS RECEIVED BY AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT~~  
16 ~~WHO IS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PRIOR TO APPLYING A~~  
17 ~~SCHOLARSHIP GRANT UNDER SECTION 2004-L:~~

18 ~~(I) FEDERAL GRANTS.~~

19 ~~(II) STATE GRANTS.~~

20 ~~(III) INSTITUTIONAL AID.~~

21 ~~(IV) PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS.~~

22 ~~(2) SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AWARDED UNDER SECTION 2004-L AND~~  
23 ~~STUDENT AID GRANTS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL BE APPLIED~~  
24 ~~PRIOR TO WORK STUDY OR LOAN AWARDS.~~

25 ~~Section 2004-L. Scholarship grant.~~

26 ~~(a) Eligibility.--To receive a scholarship grant, a student~~  
27 ~~must meet the following requirements:~~

28 ~~(1) Attend a university within the State system AN~~ <--  
29 ~~INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.~~

30 ~~(2) Be enrolled in an approved course of study in~~

1 education or another program that is designed to prepare the  
2 student to become a teacher in an elementary or secondary <--  
3 school A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY. <--

4 (3) Maintain ~~domicile~~ RESIDENCE in this Commonwealth <--  
5 during the term of the scholarship grant WHILE ATTENDING AN <--  
6 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

7 (4) Enter into a written agreement with the agency in a  
8 form and manner that the agency shall determine to do all of  
9 the following:

10 (i) Commence employment AS A TEACHER in this <--  
11 Commonwealth within one year after completion of the  
12 approved course of study. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER <--  
13 PROVISION OF LAW, A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
14 TEACHER MAY NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP  
15 GRANT IF THE INDIVIDUAL COMMENCES WORK FOR A CAREER AND  
16 TECHNICAL SCHOOL PRIOR TO RECEIVING AN INSTRUCTIONAL  
17 CERTIFICATION.

18 (ii) Work ~~within this Commonwealth~~ AS A TEACHER FOR <--  
19 A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH for a  
20 period of one year for each academic year that the  
21 eligible student received a scholarship grant under this  
22 article, unless the agency determines that there are  
23 extenuating circumstances.

24 (iii) Reimburse the Commonwealth all amounts  
25 received under this article if the eligible student does  
26 not comply with subparagraphs (i) and (ii).

27 (b) Student teaching.--An eligible student who is engaged in  
28 student teaching shall be eligible to receive a scholarship  
29 grant.

30 (c) Amount.--The agency may award a scholarship grant in an

1 amount up to \$8,000 per academic year to an eligible student.

2 (d) Renewal.--The scholarship grant may be renewed for up to  
3 four academic years.

4 (e) Application.--An eligible student shall apply to the  
5 agency for a scholarship grant as prescribed by the agency.

6 (f) Termination.--If a student who receives a scholarship  
7 grant terminates enrollment at the ~~university~~ INSTITUTION OF <--  
8 HIGHER EDUCATION during the academic year or prior to completion  
9 of the approved course of study, the ~~university~~ INSTITUTION OF <--  
10 HIGHER EDUCATION shall notify the agency in writing. The  
11 ~~university~~ INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION shall return all <--  
12 unused portions of the scholarship grant. The returned portion  
13 shall be used to fund other scholarship grants under this  
14 article.

15 (g) Transfer.--A scholarship grant is only transferrable if  
16 the student transfers to another ~~university within the State~~ <--  
17 ~~system~~ INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AN ELIGIBLE COURSE OF <--  
18 STUDY OR PROGRAM.

19 (h) Limitations.--A scholarship grant awarded under the  
20 program shall be made from funds appropriated for that purpose.  
21 First priority for the awarding of grants shall be given to  
22 renewal applicants. Thereafter, a grant shall be awarded on a  
23 first-come, first-served basis.

24 Section 2005-L. Miscellaneous provisions.

25 (a) Enforcement.--The agency shall enforce repayment of all  
26 scholarship grants for a student who does not comply with the  
27 provisions of this article. The agency may use all lawful  
28 collection procedures and may use private collection agencies.

29 (b) Scholarship grant not taxable income.--Scholarship  
30 grants received by an eligible student shall not be considered

1 taxable income for purposes of Article III of the act of March  
2 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971.

3 ~~(c) Regulations. The agency shall adopt regulations,~~ <--

4 (C) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES.-- <--

5 (1) THE AGENCY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS, guidelines and  
6 procedures necessary to carry out this article.

7 (2) THE AGENCY MAY ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS <--

8 ON THE COURSES OF STUDY AND PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR

9 PARTICIPATION TO ENSURE THAT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS

10 RECEIVING GRANTS COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES AND ENTER AN

11 EDUCATION PROFESSION WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

12 (d) Report.--The agency shall annually publish on the  
13 agency's publicly accessible Internet website a report on the  
14 program. The report shall include information regarding the  
15 operation of the program, including:

16 (1) The number of students receiving an award at each  
17 ~~university within the State system~~ INSTITUTION OF HIGHER <--  
18 EDUCATION.

19 (2) Demographic and income statistics of students  
20 receiving an award.

21 (3) Outcome measures, including:

22 (i) The number of students receiving an award who go  
23 on to teach in schools in this Commonwealth.

24 (ii) The number of students receiving an award who  
25 stay in this Commonwealth after graduation.

26 (III) THE NUMBER OF GRANT RECIPIENTS CURRENTLY <--  
27 EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY AFTER THREE YEARS.

28 (IV) THE NUMBER OF GRANT RECIPIENTS CURRENTLY  
29 EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY AFTER FIVE YEARS.

30 ~~(iii)~~ (V) Any other measures determined by the <--

1 agency. or requested by the State system. <--

2 (e) Appropriation. The sum of \$50,000,000 is appropriated  
3 from the General Fund to the agency for the current fiscal year  
4 for the program. The General Assembly shall appropriate funds  
5 for the program for the following fiscal years.

6 (E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.--FROM FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE <--  
7 AGENCY FOR THE PROGRAM, THE AGENCY MAY RETAIN A REASONABLE  
8 AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY FOR DIRECT COSTS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
9 PROGRAM, NOT TO EXCEED 5%. THE AGENCY SHALL INCLUDE AN ESTIMATE  
10 OF COSTS TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM WITHIN ITS ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS  
11 UNDER SECTION 610 OF THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L.177, NO.175),  
12 KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1929.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.