AN ACT Relating to creating flexibility for the educator retooling conditional scholarship program; and amending RCW 28A.660.045 and 28A.660.050.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 28A.660.045 and 2007 c 396 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The educator retooling ((to teach mathematics and science)) conditional scholarship program is created. Participation is limited to current K-12 teachers and individuals having an elementary education certificate but who are not employed in positions requiring an elementary education certificate. It is anticipated that candidates enrolled in this program will complete the requirements for a mathematics ((or)), science, special education, bilingual education, environmental and sustainability education endorsement ((or both)) in two years or less.

(2) Entry requirements for candidates include:

(a) Current K-12 teachers shall pursue a middle level mathematics or science, ((or)) secondary mathematics or science, special education, bilingual education, English language learner, computer science education, or environmental and sustainability education endorsement ((or both)).
science education, or environmental and sustainability education endorsement.

(b) Individuals having an elementary education certificate but who are not employed in positions requiring an elementary education certificate shall pursue an endorsement in middle level mathematics or science (only), special education, bilingual education, English language learner, computer science education, or environmental and sustainability education.

Sec. 2. RCW 28A.660.050 and 2012 c 229 s 507 are each amended to read as follows:

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for these purposes, the conditional scholarship programs in this chapter are created under the following guidelines:

(1) The programs shall be administered by the student achievement council. In administering the programs, the council has the following powers and duties:

(a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer the programs;

(b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not meet their service obligations; and

(c) To accept grants and donations from public and private sources for the programs.

(2) Requirements for participation in the conditional scholarship programs are as provided in this subsection (2).

(a) The alternative route conditional scholarship program is limited to interns of professional educator standards board-approved alternative routes to teaching programs under RCW 28A.660.040. For fiscal year 2011, priority must be given to fiscal year 2010 participants in the alternative route partnership program. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients shall:

(i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment in alternative certification routes through a professional educator standards board-approved program;

(ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of the alternative route certification program and receipt of a residency teaching certificate; and

(iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship, not to exceed eight thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees, and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and
transportation for the alternative route certification program in which the recipient is enrolled. The council may adjust the annual award by the average rate of resident undergraduate tuition and fee increases at the state universities as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

(b) The pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship program is limited to qualified paraeducators as provided by RCW 28A.660.042. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients shall:

(i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment at a community and technical college for no more than two years and attain an associate degree;

(ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of an associate of arts degree. This progress requirement is a condition for eligibility into a route one program of the alternative routes to teacher certification program for a mathematics, special education, or English as a second language endorsement; and

(iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship, not to exceed four thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees, and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and transportation for the alternative route certification program in which the recipient is enrolled. The student achievement council may adjust the annual award by the average rate of tuition and fee increases at the state community and technical colleges.

(c) The educator retooling ((to teach mathematics and science)) conditional scholarship program is limited to current K-12 teachers. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards:

(i) Individuals currently employed as teachers shall pursue ((a)) an endorsement in at least one of the following: Middle level mathematics or science, or secondary mathematics or science ((endorsement)); special education, bilingual education, English language learner, computer science education, or environmental and sustainability education; or

(ii) Individuals who are certificated with an elementary education endorsement shall pursue an endorsement in at least one of the following: Middle level mathematics or science((, or both)); special education, bilingual education, English language learner, computer science education, or environmental and sustainability education; and

(iii) Individuals shall use one of the pathways to endorsement processes to receive a mathematics or science endorsement, or both,
or special education, bilingual education, English language learner
endorsement, computer science education, or environmental and
sustainability education, which shall include passing ((a mathematics
or science)) an endorsement test, or ((both)) tests, plus observation
and completing applicable coursework to attain the proper
endorsement; and

(iv) Individuals shall receive no more than the annual amount of
the scholarship, not to exceed three thousand dollars, for the cost
of tuition, test fees, and educational expenses, including books,
supplies, and transportation for the endorsement pathway being
pursued.

(3) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
select individuals to receive conditional scholarships. In selecting
recipients, preference shall be given to eligible veterans or
national guard members.

(4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
a loan that is forgiven in whole or in part in exchange for service
as a certificated teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public
school. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every
two years a recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients who fail
to continue a course of study leading to residency teacher
certification or cease to teach in a public school in the state of
Washington in their endorsement area are required to repay the
remaining loan principal with interest.

(5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching
obligation are required to repay the remaining loan principal with
interest and any other applicable fees. The student achievement
council shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment,
including applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

(6) The student achievement council may deposit all
appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the
program in this chapter in the future teachers conditional
scholarship account authorized in RCW 28B.102.080.

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