

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS45290-MKa-106 (03/03)

Short Title: Turning TAs Into Teachers.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Barefoot, McInnis, and Smith-Ingram (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE TEACHER ASSISTANT TUITION REIMBURSEMENT
PILOT PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Section 8.29 of S.L. 2016-94 reads as rewritten:

"TEACHER ASSISTANT TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PILOT PROGRAM

"SECTION 8.29.(a) Purpose. – The purpose of this section is to establish a pilot program ~~for~~ for, beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the local boards of education of the Anson County, Franklin County, Moore County, Richmond County, and Scotland County school administrative units and, beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the local boards of education of the Bertie County Schools, Duplin County Schools, Edenton-Chowan Schools, Edgecombe County Schools, Halifax County Schools, Nash-Rocky Mount Schools, Northampton County Schools, Tyrrell County Schools, Vance County Schools, and Washington County Schools, to provide tuition assistance awards to part-time or full-time teacher assistants working in those local school administrative units to pursue a college degree that will result in teacher licensure. Tuition assistance awards under the program may be provided for part-time or full-time coursework. A local board of education may grant a teacher assistant academic leave to pursue coursework that may only be taken during working hours. A teacher assistant receiving an award under the program shall fulfill the student teaching requirements of an educator preparation program by working in the teacher assistant's employing local school administrative unit. A teacher assistant may continue to receive salary and benefits while student teaching in the local school administrative unit in accordance with G.S. 115C-310.

...

"SECTION 8.29.(d) The local boards of education participating in the pilot program for the 2016-2017 fiscal year shall jointly report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 1, ~~2017,~~ 2017. All of the local boards of education participating in the pilot program shall jointly report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 1, 2018, and by September 1 of each year thereafter on the results of the pilot program, including at least the following information:

- (1) The number and amount of funds in tuition assistance awards provided to teacher assistants.
- (2) The number of teacher assistant recipients who achieved teacher licensure, including the period of time from the issue of an initial tuition assistance award to the time of achieving licensure.



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- 1 (3) The number of recipients who remained employed in the local school
2 administrative unit after achieving teacher licensure."
3 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
4 Public Instruction the sum of two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) in recurring
5 funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year for the purpose of expanding the number of local school
6 administrative units participating in the teacher assistant tuition reimbursement pilot program
7 as provided by this act.
8 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.