
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-FREYITZ, KIM, CONKLIN AND TAKAC,
MARCH 23, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 23, 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 Scholarship
6 Program; imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Higher Education
7 Assistance Agency and the State System of Higher Education;
8 and making an appropriation.

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

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

14 ARTICLE XX-L

15 PA TEACH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

16 Section 2001-L. Purpose.

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

1 efficient system of public education afforded to all children in
2 this Commonwealth.

3 Section 2002-L. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

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

21 "Program." The PA Teach Scholarship Program established
22 under section 2003-L.

23 "State system." The State System of Higher Education
24 established under Article XX-A.

25 Section 2003-L. PA Teach Scholarship Program.

26 (a) Establishment.--The PA Teach Scholarship Program is
27 established within the agency.

28 (b) Scholarship grant.--The agency shall provide a
29 scholarship grant to an eligible student who is a resident of
30 this Commonwealth. The scholarship grant shall be applied

1 against the cost of attendance. The scholarship grant shall be
2 for the amount provided under section 2004-L.

3 (c) Other funding.--Prior to receiving a scholarship grant
4 under this article, a student must also apply for Federal Pell
5 Grants and State grants available to cover the cost of
6 attendance, as determined by the agency.

7 (d) Order of financial aid.--An institution of the State
8 system shall apply a scholarship grant received by an eligible
9 student with other financial aid in the following order:

- 10 (1) Federal Pell Grant or any successor program.
- 11 (2) Pennsylvania State grants.
- 12 (3) Institutional aid.
- 13 (4) Private scholarships.
- 14 (5) Scholarship grants awarded under section 2004-L.
- 15 (6) Federal work study.
- 16 (7) Federal student loans.

17 Section 2004-L. Scholarship grant.

18 (a) Eligibility.--To receive a scholarship grant, a student
19 must meet the following requirements:

- 20 (1) Attend a university within the State system.
- 21 (2) Be enrolled in an approved course of study in
22 education or another program that is designed to prepare the
23 student to become a teacher in an elementary or secondary
24 school.
- 25 (3) Maintain domicile in this Commonwealth during the
26 term of the scholarship grant.
- 27 (4) Enter into a written agreement with the agency in a
28 form and manner that the agency shall determine to do all of
29 the following:
 - 30 (i) Commence employment in this Commonwealth within

1 one year after completion of the approved course of
2 study.

3 (ii) Work within this Commonwealth for a period of
4 one year for each academic year that the eligible student
5 received a scholarship grant under this article, unless
6 the agency determines that there are extenuating
7 circumstances.

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

11 (b) Student teaching.--An eligible student who is engaged in
12 student teaching shall be eligible to receive a scholarship
13 grant.

14 (c) Amount.--The agency may award a scholarship grant in an
15 amount up to \$8,000 per academic year to an eligible student.

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

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

20 (f) Termination.--If a student who receives a scholarship
21 grant terminates enrollment at the university during the
22 academic year or prior to completion of the approved course of
23 study, the university shall notify the agency in writing. The
24 university shall return all unused portions of the scholarship
25 grant. The returned portion shall be used to fund other
26 scholarship grants under this article.

27 (g) Transfer.--A scholarship grant is only transferrable if
28 the student transfers to another university within the State
29 system.

30 (h) Limitations.--A scholarship grant awarded under the

1 program shall be made from funds appropriated for that purpose.
2 First priority for the awarding of grants shall be given to
3 renewal applicants. Thereafter, a grant shall be awarded on a
4 first-come, first-served basis.

5 Section 2005-L. Miscellaneous provisions.

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

10 (b) Scholarship grant not taxable income.--Scholarship
11 grants received by an eligible student shall not be considered
12 taxable income for purposes of Article III of the act of March
13 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971.

14 (c) Regulations.--The agency shall adopt regulations,
15 guidelines and procedures necessary to carry out this article.

16 (d) Report.--The agency shall annually publish on the
17 agency's publicly accessible Internet website a report on the
18 program. The report shall include information regarding the
19 operation of the program, including:

20 (1) The number of students receiving an award at each
21 university within the State system.

22 (2) Demographic and income statistics of students
23 receiving an award.

24 (3) Outcome measures, including:

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

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

29 (iii) Any other measures determined by the agency or
30 requested by the State system.

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

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