

HOUSE BILL 3413

By Brown

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-706, relative to minority teaching fellows program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-706, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The Tennessee student assistance corporation (TSAC) shall administer a minority teaching fellows program.

(1) Recipients shall attend a higher education institution within the state, which institution shall have an approved teacher education program as determined by the state board of education, or shall enroll initially in a two-year college program that has transfer agreements with an approved teacher education program in this state.

(2) Recipients shall pursue a baccalaureate or graduate degree program leading to licensure as a teacher.

(3) Each fellowship award shall be in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and shall be renewable up to three (3) times, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance.

(4)

(A) Recipients who become public school teachers in this state shall receive forgiveness of the fellowship balance based on one (1) year's teaching service for each year the fellowship was awarded.

(B) TSAC shall also forgive the loan if, within seven (7) years after graduation, the recipient teaches for three (3) consecutive years, unless the recipient takes an approved leave of absence, at a Tennessee public school in a local school administrative unit that, at the time the recipient accepts employment with the unit, is a high priority school system or is on warning status as defined by the commissioner or board of education. TSAC shall also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible for the recipient to teach for four (4) years, within seven (7) years after graduation, at a Tennessee public school because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.