

Amendment: PE1

Representative Whitmire proposes the following amendment:

Department of Education – EIA / Section 1A-H630

Amend further:

1A.6. (SDE-EIA: CHE/Teacher Recruitment) (A) Of the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, VIII.F. for the Teacher Recruitment Program, the Commission on Higher Education shall distribute a total of ninety-two percent to the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA South Carolina) for a state teacher recruitment program, of which at least seventy-eight percent must be used for the Teaching Fellows Program specifically to provide scholarships for future teachers, and of which twenty-two percent must be used for other aspects of the state teacher recruitment program, including the Teacher Cadet Program and \$166,302 which must be used for specific programs to recruit minority teachers: and shall distribute eight percent to South Carolina State University to be used only for the operation of a minority teacher recruitment program and therefore shall not be used for the operation of their established general education programs. Working with districts with an absolute rating of At-risk or Below Average, CERRA will provide shared initiatives to recruit and retain teachers to schools in these districts. CERRA will report annually by October first to the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education on the success of the recruitment and retention efforts in these schools. The Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that all funds are used to promote teacher recruitment on a statewide basis, shall ensure the continued coordination of efforts among the three teacher recruitment projects, shall review the use of funds and shall have prior program and budget approval. The South Carolina State University program, in consultation with

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

the Commission on Higher Education, shall extend beyond the geographic area it currently serves. Annually, the Commission on Higher Education shall evaluate the effectiveness of each of the teacher recruitment projects and shall report its findings and its program and budget recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees, the State Board of Education, and the Education Oversight Committee by October first annually, in a format agreed upon by the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education.

(B) With the funds appropriated CERRA shall also appoint and maintain the South Carolina Teacher Loan Advisory Committee upon recommendations by the Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall be composed of one member representing each of the following: (1) Commission on Higher Education who shall serve as chair of the Committee; (2) State Board Department of Education; (3) Education Oversight Committee; (4) Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement; (5) South Carolina Student Loan Corporation; (6) South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA); (7) a local school district human resources officer; (8) a public higher education institution with an approved teacher education program; and (9) a private higher education institution with an approved teacher education program. The members of the committee representing SCASFAA, a local school district, and the public and private higher education institutions shall rotate among those intuitions and shall serve a single two-year term on the committee. The committee must be staffed by CERRA, and shall meet at least twice four times annually. The committee's responsibilities are limited to its duties for: (1) establishing, monitoring, and reporting progress on goals for the Teacher Loan Program; (2) facilitating communication among the cooperating agencies entities; (3) actively advocating for program participants; and (4) using the most recent program evaluation reports as a guide, recommending policies and procedures necessary to promote, and publicize maintain the program as well as developing specific recommendations for changes necessary to statute, regulation, and or proviso necessary to modernize and streamline the program, enhance its alignment and parity with other teacher recruitment initiatives, and (5) annually by February first and August first, submitting a summary of meetings held during that period and actions taken to conform with each stated duty to the Commission on Higher Education, and to the Education Oversight Committee for inclusion in the annual program evaluation.

(C) In conformance with the 2025 Teacher Loan Program (TLP) Report Finding and Recommendations, the Student Loan Corporation shall:

(1) Review and revise TLP program applications and submit a plan to the Commission on Higher Education for implementing an online application process; and

PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

(2) Add a question on the TLP application which will designate applicant as a Teaching Fellow recipient.