

**Representative Ronda Rudd Menlove** proposes the following substitute bill:

1                   **TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR**  
2                   **STUDENTS SEEKING TEACHER LICENSURE**  
3                   **IN DISABILITY OR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

4                                   2005 GENERAL SESSION

5                                   STATE OF UTAH

6                                   **Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove**

---

---

8                   **LONG TITLE**

9                   **General Description:**

10                   This bill creates a tuition reimbursement program for students seeking special education  
11 licensure.

12                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

13                   This bill:

- 14                   ▶ establishes a Special Education Professional Tuition Reimbursement Program, to be  
15 administered by the Board of Regents, for students studying to become special  
16 education personnel in the state; and  
17                   ▶ authorizes tuition reimbursement for recipients who provide special education  
18 services in the state on a year-of-tuition for year-of-work basis, up to four years.

19                   **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

20                   This bill appropriates as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints,  
21 \$500,000 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2005-06 to the Board of Regents.

22                   **Other Special Clauses:**

23                   This bill takes effect on July 1, 2005.

24                   **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

25                   ENACTS:



- 26           **53B-10a-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 27           **53B-10a-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 28           **53B-10a-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 29           **53B-10a-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 30           **53B-10a-105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



31  
32 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

33           Section 1. Section **53B-10a-101** is enacted to read:

34                           **CHAPTER 10a. SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL TUITION**  
35   **REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM ACT**

36           **53B-10a-101. Title.**

37           This chapter is known as the "Special Education Professional Tuition Reimbursement  
38 Program Act."

39           Section 2. Section **53B-10a-102** is enacted to read:

40           **53B-10a-102. Definitions.**

41           (1) As used in this chapter, "eligible student" means a student attending any accredited  
42 institution of higher education within the state who has been admitted to, or has made  
43 application to and is prepared to enter into, a program preparing students for licensure in Utah  
44 as:

- 45           (a) a special education teacher;
- 46           (b) a school psychologist;
- 47           (c) a speech or language pathologist; or
- 48           (d) another licensed professional providing services to pupils with disabilities.

49           (2) "Eligible student" includes:

- 50           (a) a full-time student;
- 51           (b) a part-time student;
- 52           (c) a student who already holds a bachelor's degree; and
- 53           (d) any other nontraditional student.

54           Section 3. Section **53B-10a-103** is enacted to read:

55           **53B-10a-103. Tuition reimbursement program.**

56           A Special Education Professional Tuition Reimbursement program is established to

57 recruit, train, and retain superior candidates for providing special education services in the  
58 state.

59 Section 4. Section **53B-10a-104** is enacted to read:

60 **53B-10a-104. Tuition reimbursement and stipend -- Conditions -- Cancellation --**  
61 **Stipend repayment.**

62 (1) The State Board of Regents shall award funds appropriated for the Special  
63 Education Professional Tuition Reimbursement program on a competitive basis to eligible  
64 students, based on criteria developed to ensure that award recipients pursue a special education  
65 career in the state.

66 (2) Award recipients shall receive:

67 (a) a \$500 stipend for the first semester after selection as an award recipient; and

68 (b) an annual tuition reimbursement payment upon working in the state, with one  
69 school year of special education work equal to a payment of one year's tuition and fees.

70 (3) Reimbursement awards shall cover higher education tuition and fees, as determined  
71 by, and subject to conditions approved by, the board.

72 (4) Each reimbursement award is valid for up to four years of full-time equivalent  
73 enrollment, or until requirements for licensing or advanced licensing have been met, whichever  
74 is less.

75 (5) A reimbursement award for tuition and fees at a private institution may not exceed  
76 the average reimbursement amounts granted for tuition and fees at public institutions of higher  
77 education within the state.

78 (6) (a) A reimbursement award may be canceled at any time by the board if:

79 (i) the award recipient fails to make reasonable progress towards fulfilling licensing  
80 requirements; or

81 (ii) it appears to be a reasonable certainty that the award recipient does not intend to  
82 work in special education in the state.

83 (b) The board shall revoke the award of a recipient who does not work in special  
84 education in the state within two years after graduation.

85 (7) The board may, for good cause, grant a leave of absence to a reimbursement award  
86 holder.

87 (8) A student may not receive both a Special Education Professional Tuition

88 Reimbursement award and a loan pursuant to Title 53B, Chapter 10, Terrill H. Bell Teaching  
89 Incentive Loans Program.

90 Section 5. Section **53B-10a-105** is enacted to read:

91 **53B-10a-105. Number of awards -- Administration of funds.**

92 (1) The board shall annually review the number of reimbursement awards to be  
93 provided, based on:

94 (a) the funds appropriated; and

95 (b) the need to prepare individuals to provide special education services, as determined  
96 by the supply of and demand for special education professionals in the state.

97 (2) Appropriated funds shall be held in a separate account until funds are distributed to  
98 award recipients.

99 (3) The board shall administer the funds in accordance with criteria, policies, and  
100 procedures established by the board.

101 Section 6. **Appropriation.**

102 As an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, there is appropriated  
103 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2005-06, \$500,000 to the Board of Regents for the  
104 Special Education Professional Tuition Reimbursement program.

105 Section 7. **Effective date.**

106 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2005.