

**TUITION PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS
SEEKING TEACHER LICENSURE**

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove

Senate Sponsor: Beverly Ann Evans

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loans program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the class of students eligible for the Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loans program;
- ▶ gives the State Board of Regents sole authority to make standard awards;
- ▶ modifies prioritization criteria;
- ▶ allows the State Board of Education to select certain recipients, subject to program appropriation levels; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53B-10-101, as last amended by Chapter 223, Laws of Utah 2005

53B-10-102, as last amended by Chapter 223, Laws of Utah 2005

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

30 Section 1. Section **53B-10-101** is amended to read:

31 **53B-10-101. Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loans program -- Eligible**
32 **students -- Cancellation of incentive loans -- Repayment by recipient who fails to meet**
33 **requirements -- Duration of incentive loans.**

34 (1) (a) A Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loans program is established to recruit and
35 train superior candidates for teaching in Utah's public school system as a component of the
36 teacher quality continuum referred to in Subsections 53A-1a-104(7) and 53A-6-102(2)(a).

37 (b) Under the program, the incentive loans may be used in any of Utah's state-operated
38 institutions of higher education or at a private institution of higher education in Utah that offers
39 a state-approved teacher education program.

40 (2) (a) The [~~State Board of Education or the~~] State Board of Regents shall award the
41 incentive loans to college students who have been admitted to, or have made application to and
42 are prepared to enter into, a program preparing students for licensure and who declare an intent
43 to complete the prescribed course of instruction and to teach in this state in accordance with the
44 priorities described under Subsection (5)(c).

45 (b) The incentive loan may be canceled at any time by the institution of attendance if:

46 (i) the student fails to make reasonable progress towards completion of licensing
47 requirements; or

48 (ii) it appears to be a reasonable certainty that the student does not intend to teach in
49 Utah.

50 (c) The State Board of Regents may grant leaves of absence to incentive loan holders.

51 (3) The State Board of Regents may require an incentive loan recipient who fails to
52 complete the requirements for licensing without good cause to repay all tuition and fees
53 provided by the loan, together with appropriate interest.

54 (4) (a) The State Board of Regents may require an incentive loan recipient who does
55 not work in the state's public school system or a private school within the state within two years
56 after graduation to repay all tuition and fees provided by the loan, together with appropriate
57 interest, unless waived for good cause.

58 (b) (i) A recipient who does not teach for a term equal to the number of years of the
59 incentive loan within a reasonable period of time after graduation shall repay a graduated
60 portion of the tuition and fees based upon the uncompleted term.

61 (ii) One year of teaching is credit for one year's tuition and fees.

62 (c) All repayments made under this Subsection (4) are for use in the Terrel H. Bell
63 Teaching Incentive Loans program.

64 (5) (a) Each incentive loan is valid for up to four years of full-time equivalent
65 enrollment, or until requirements for licensing or advanced licensing have been met, whichever
66 is less.

67 (b) (i) Incentive loans apply to both tuition and fees in amounts and are subject to
68 conditions approved by the State Board of Regents, based upon criteria developed to insure that
69 all recipients of the loans will pursue an education career within the state.

70 (ii) An incentive loan for tuition and fees at a private institution may not exceed the
71 average scholarship amounts granted for tuition and fees at public institutions of higher
72 education within the state.

73 (c) Incentive loans shall be awarded in accordance with prioritized critical areas of
74 need for teaching expertise within the state, as determined by the State Board of [Education,]
75 Education's criticality index and school district priorities based upon data provided by the
76 school district, and may include preparing persons as:

77 (i) a special education teacher;

78 (ii) a speech or language pathologist; or

79 (iii) another licensed professional providing services in the public schools to pupils
80 with disabilities.

81 Section 2. Section **53B-10-102** is amended to read:

82 **53B-10-102. Number of incentive loans -- Criteria for awarding -- Additional**
83 **awards.**

84 (1) (a) A total of 365 Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loans shall be maintained each
85 year in accordance with criteria and procedures established by the [State Board of Education

86 ~~and] State Board of Regents[-], except that if the annual appropriation for this program is not~~
87 ~~sufficient to fund 365 loans, the State Board of Regents may reduce the total number of~~
88 ~~incentive loans awarded each year to correspond to the appropriation level.~~

89 (b) The number of incentive loans to be awarded shall be reviewed annually based on
90 the need to prepare individuals to teach as determined by the supply of and demand for teachers
91 in the state.

92 (2) These incentive loans shall be awarded in the following categories:

93 ~~[(a) incentive loans for persons who were originally awarded their loans as high school~~
94 ~~juniors and seniors selected through statewide competition;]~~

95 ~~[(b)]~~ (a) incentive loans for ~~[persons]~~ college students who have successfully
96 completed not less than the equivalent of two semesters of formal higher education study; and

97 ~~[(c)]~~ (b) incentive loans for persons described in Subsection 53B-10-101(5)(c),
98 including:

99 (i) part-time college students who are enrolled in at least six semester hours;

100 (ii) college students who already hold a bachelor's degree; and

101 (iii) other nontraditional college students[-] who are enrolled in at least six semester
102 hours; and

103 ~~[(3)(a) Additional awards may be given each year to a limited number of scholarship~~
104 ~~holders to include the following:]~~

105 ~~[(i) 20 state-funded premier scholarships, which provide an additional \$3,000 per year~~
106 ~~for winners of a widely publicized statewide competition, but the number may be increased~~
107 ~~through private donations; and]~~

108 ~~[(ii) 100 supplementary stipends paying \$750 per semester, available each year for~~
109 ~~students granted scholarships under Subsection (1)(b) who declare an intent to be licensed in~~
110 ~~areas of critical teacher shortage as determined by the State Board of Education.]~~

111 ~~[(b) Subsection (1)(b) applies to the awards made under Subsection (3)(a).]~~

112 (c) a limited number of high school seniors, as selected by the State Board of
113 Education in a statewide competition, if the annual appropriation for the program meets or

114 exceeds the 365 loans under Subsection (1)(a).