

Representative Carol S. Moss proposes the following substitute bill:

ADVANCED DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP PILOT PROGRAM

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carol S. Moss

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts an advanced degree scholarship pilot program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ enacts a five-year advanced degree scholarship pilot program for educators who pursue advanced degrees in education;
- ▶ grants the State Board of Education rulemaking authority to create and administer the pilot program;
- ▶ provides for the use of the Public Education Economic Stabilization Account to fund the pilot program; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

- ▶ to State Board of Education - Educator Licensing as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account,
- One-time, \$20,000,000

Other Special Clauses:



26 This bill provides a special effective date.

27 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

28 AMENDS:

29 [53F-9-204](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 386, 456

30 ENACTS:

31 [53F-5-222](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

34 Section 1. Section [53F-5-222](#) is enacted to read:

35 **[53F-5-222](#). **Advanced Degree Scholarship Pilot Program.****

36 (1) As used in this section:

37 (a) "Advanced degree" means a master or doctoral level degree.

38 (b) "Eligible educator" means an educator as the term is defined in Section [53E-6-102](#).

39 (c) "Program" means the Advanced Degree Scholarship Pilot Program created in

40 Subsection (2).

41 (2) There is established a five-year pilot program known as the the Advanced Degree
42 Scholarship Pilot Program to provide financial assistance to educators for the pursuit of
43 advanced degrees.

44 (3) Subject to Section [53F-9-204](#), the state board shall award a scholarship to an
45 eligible educator who:

46 (a) pursues an advanced degree in education;

47 (b) submits an application to the state board;

48 (c) submits a letter of recommendation from the principal of the qualified applicant's
49 school;

50 (d) subject to Subsection (4), is enrolled in an advanced degree program from:

51 (i) an institution of higher education within the state system of higher education
52 described in Section [53B-1-102](#); or

53 (ii) a private, non-profit institution of higher education in the state that is accredited by
54 the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; and

55 (e) will complete the advanced degree program no later than three years from the day
56 on which the advanced degree program begins.

57 (4) For purposes of Subsection (3)(d), the state board shall determine the advanced
58 degrees that qualify for a scholarship award.

59 (5) The state board shall determine the amount of the scholarship award, ensuring that
60 the amount does not exceed the combined costs of tuition, fees, and required textbooks.

61 (6) The state board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3. Utah
62 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

63 (a) create a scholarship application process and appeal process for the program;

64 (b) establish criteria for awarding a scholarship;

65 (c) require a scholarship recipient to use the scholarship award exclusively for the
66 purposes of pursuing an advanced degree described in this section; and

67 (d) establish policies and procedures for cancellation or repayment of scholarship
68 awards if the scholarship recipient fails to meet the requirements under this section.

69 (7) If an appropriation under this section is insufficient to cover the costs associated
70 with the program, the state board may:

71 (a) reduce the amount of the scholarship award; and

72 (b) distribute scholarship awards on a pro rata basis to all eligible educators who
73 submitted a completed application before the application deadline.

74 Section 2. Section **53F-9-204** is amended to read:

75 **53F-9-204. Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account.**

76 (1) There is created within the Uniform School Fund a restricted account known as the
77 "Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account."

78 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the account shall be funded from the
79 following revenue sources:

80 (i) 15% of the difference between, as determined by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
81 Analyst:

82 (A) the estimated amount of ongoing Income Tax Fund and Uniform School Fund
83 revenue available for the Legislature to appropriate for the next fiscal year; and

84 (B) the amount of ongoing appropriations from the Income Tax Fund and Uniform
85 School Fund in the current fiscal year; and

86 (ii) other appropriations as the Legislature may designate.

87 (b) If the appropriation described in Subsection (2)(a) would cause the ongoing

88 appropriations to the account to exceed 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations described
89 in Section 53F-9-201.1 for the same fiscal year, the Legislature shall appropriate only those
90 funds necessary to ensure that the ongoing appropriations to the account equal 11% of Uniform
91 School Fund appropriations for that fiscal year.

92 (3) Subject to the availability of ongoing appropriations to the account, in accordance
93 with

94 Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5, Subsection (4), the ongoing appropriation to the
95 account shall be used to fund:

96 (a) except for a year described in Subsection (3)(b), one-time appropriations to the
97 public education system; and

98 (b) the Minimum School Program for a year in which Income Tax Fund revenue and
99 Uniform School Fund revenue are insufficient to fund:

100 (i) ongoing appropriations to the public education system; and

101 (ii) enrollment growth and inflation estimates, as defined in Section 53F-9-201.1.

102 (4) (a) The account shall earn interest.

103 (b) All interest earned on account money shall be deposited in the account.

104 (5) On or before December 31, 2023, and every three years thereafter, the Office of the
105 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

106 (a) review the percentages described in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (2)(b); and

107 (b) recommend to the Executive Appropriations Subcommittee any changes based on
108 the review described in Subsection (5)(a).

109 (6) In preparing budget bills for a given fiscal year, the Executive Appropriations
110 Committee shall make the one-time appropriations described in Subsection (3)(a) by
111 appropriating at least the lesser of 10% of the total amount of the one-time appropriations or:

112 (a) the cost of providing 32 paid professional hours for teachers in accordance with
113 Section 53F-7-203[-]; or

114 (b) the cost of pursuing an advanced degree or certification for educators in accordance
115 with Section 53F-5-222.

116 Section 3. **FY 2025 Appropriation.**

117 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
118 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for

119 fiscal year 2025.

120 Subsection 3(a). **Expendable Funds and Accounts.**

121 The Legislature has reviewed the following expendable funds. The Legislature
122 authorizes the State Division of Finance to transfer amounts between funds and accounts as
123 indicated. Outlays and expenditures from the funds or accounts to which the money is
124 transferred may be made without further legislative action, in accordance with statutory
125 provisions relating to the funds or accounts.

126 ITEM 1 To State Board of Education - Educator Licensing

127 From Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted \$20,000,000
Account, One-time

128 Schedule of Programs:

129 Educator Licensing \$20,000,000

130 Section 4. **Effective date.**

131 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.