

13102370D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1970

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled January 9, 2013

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-290.02, relating to creation of the Exemplary Teacher Grant Fund.*

Patrons—Yancey, Ramadan and Kilgore

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-290.02 as follows:****§ 22.1-290.02. Exemplary Teacher Grant Fund established.**

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Exemplary Teacher Grant Fund, hereafter referred to as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds as may be appropriated for this purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

B. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of awarding grants on a competitive basis to any exemplary teacher in a public elementary or secondary school in the Commonwealth who subsequently accepts an offer for employment in a critical teacher shortage area as defined in the Board of Education's Regulations Governing the Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas developed pursuant to § 22.1-290.01.

C. The Board of Education shall establish criteria for making distributions from the Fund and may issue guidelines governing the Fund as it deems necessary and appropriate. The criteria and guidelines shall include a definition of "exemplary teacher" and a requirement that any exemplary teacher applying for a grant from the Fund shall (i) agree to a three-year employment contract in the critical teacher shortage area, (ii) develop a program for mentoring other teachers in the school in which the exemplary teacher is employed, and (iii) serve as a mentor in the mentoring program that he develops.

INTRODUCED

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