

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 346

BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMPSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BOYD, BRASS, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, CREWS, DAVIS, DUBUISSON, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GAROFALO, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HARRIS, HILFERTY, HUGHES, ILLG, IVEY, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KERNER, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MINCEY, NELSON, NEWELL, CHARLES OWEN, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHLEGEL, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, TARVER, TURNER, VILLIO, WHEAT, WHITE, AND WRIGHT AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, CARTER, FOIL, JACKSON, REESE, SMITH, STINE, WARD, AND WOMACK

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:7.6, relative to education; to establish a program for the purpose of
3 awarding scholarships to students in certain teacher preparation programs; to provide
4 for program administration; to create a fund for the purpose of funding the program;
5 to require rules relative to the program and the fund; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:7.6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §7.6. Geaux Teach Program and Geaux Teach Fund

10 A. The Geaux Teach Program is hereby established for the purpose of
11 awarding scholarships to students in teacher preparation programs at postsecondary
12 education institutions that are approved by the State Board of Elementary and
13 Secondary Education. The program shall be administered by the Board of Regents
14 through the office of student financial assistance. The administering agency may
15 retain up to three percent of the funding available for the program for costs
16 associated with administering the program.

1 B.(1) The Geaux Teach Fund, referred to in this Section as the "fund", is
2 hereby created within the state treasury for the purpose of providing funding for the
3 Geaux Teach Program.

4 (2) Monies in the fund shall be subject to appropriation by the legislature and
5 shall be available exclusively for use by the Board of Regents through the office of
6 student financial assistance for purposes of the Geaux Teach Program.

7 (3) All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the
8 fiscal year shall remain in the fund and be available for appropriation the next fiscal
9 year. The monies shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies
10 in the state general fund, and all interest earned shall be credited to the fund
11 following compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
12 Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

13 C. The Board of Regents through the office of student financial assistance
14 shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of this Section.

15 D. Up to twenty percent of the annual appropriation to the Geaux Teach
16 Fund may be used to award scholarships to students enrolled in certified alternative
17 teacher certification program approved by the State Board of Elementary and
18 Secondary Education.

19 E. A student shall be initially eligible for the program if the student meets
20 all of the following criteria:

21 (1) Is a United States citizen who is registered with Selective Service, if
22 required.

23 (2) Is a Louisiana resident for at least two years prior to July 1 of the
24 scholarship award year.

25 (3) Has completed and submitted documentary evidence required by the
26 Board of Regents through the office of student financial assistance.

27 (4) Is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in a teacher education
28 program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with
29 the intent of becoming a certified teacher.

30 (5) Have at a least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average.

1 F. To maintain eligibility for an award a student shall meet all of the
2 following criteria:

3 (1) Have received the scholarship for not more than four academic years.

4 (2) Maintain full-time undergraduate status.

5 (3) Achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 at the end of
6 each academic year.

7 (4) Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student in an approved
8 teacher education program, unless granted an exception by the administering agency.

9 G. Scholarship awards shall be applicable only to the cost of tuition, required
10 fees, and textbooks and instructional materials required for the course of study. The
11 award shall be used only after all other state or institutional financial aid and awards
12 are applied and only for any remaining balance due for tuition, required fees, and
13 textbooks and instructional materials required for the course of study.

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
18 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____