

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 988

To provide mentoring programs for beginning teachers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide mentoring programs for beginning teachers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Teacher Mentoring Act of 1999”.

6 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) The most important educational tool in any
9 classroom is a qualified, highly trained teacher.

1 (2) The American teaching force is aging. The
2 average school teacher was 43 years old in academic
3 year 1993–1994, an increase of 3 years over the av-
4 erage age of school teachers in academic year 1987–
5 1998. Nearly a quarter of American teachers are
6 over 50 years old and nearing retirement.

7 (3) On average public school teachers have
8 slightly more than 15 years teaching experience, and
9 over a third of the public school teachers have 20 or
10 more years of teaching experience.

11 (4) The experience of America’s veteran teach-
12 ers should be utilized to help introduce beginning
13 teachers to the profession and to their new school.

14 (5) Retention of beginning teachers is a grow-
15 ing problem, with approximately 25 percent of be-
16 ginning teachers leaving the teaching profession
17 within their first 3 years in the classroom.

18 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to increase
19 teacher retention and improve the support and perform-
20 ance of teachers by encouraging and assisting States to
21 develop and operate mentoring programs for beginning
22 teachers.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 The terms used in this Act have the meanings given
3 the terms in section 14101 of the Elementary and Sec-
4 ondary Education Act of 1965.

5 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to
7 award grants to State educational agencies to enable the
8 State educational agencies to carry out mentoring pro-
9 grams under which public elementary school or secondary
10 school teachers with more than 3 years teaching experi-
11 ence serve as mentor teachers to public elementary school
12 or secondary school teachers with less than 3 years teach-
13 ing experience.

14 (b) **AMOUNT.**—Each State educational agency having
15 an application approved under subsection (d) for a fiscal
16 year shall receive a grant in an amount that bears the
17 same relation to the amount appropriated under sub-
18 section (f) for the fiscal year as the number of elementary
19 school and secondary school students in the State for the
20 fiscal year bears to the number of such students in all
21 States for the fiscal year.

22 (c) **REALLOCATION.**—The amount of a State edu-
23 cational agency's grant that will not be used by the State
24 educational agency for a fiscal year shall be reallocated to
25 the other State educational agency in the same manner
26 as grants are awarded under subsection (b).

1 (d) APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency
2 that desires a grant under this section shall submit an
3 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner
4 and accompanied by such information as the Secretary
5 may require. Each such application shall—

6 (1) describe the activities and services for which
7 assistance is sought;

8 (2) contain an assurance that funds provided
9 under this Act will be used to supplement and not
10 supplant State or local public funds available for
11 teacher mentoring programs; and

12 (3) contain an assurance that the State edu-
13 cational agency consulted with local educational
14 agencies, school superintendents, school boards, par-
15 ents, and institutions of higher education in the de-
16 sign and implementation of the teacher mentoring
17 program to be assisted.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
20 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

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