

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 1786

Short Title: Coaching Scholarship Fund.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Goodwin.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 31, 2004

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COACHING AND ASSISTANT COACHING
3 SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT
4 THIS ACT.

5 Whereas, athletic coaches play an important role in the lives of North
6 Carolina's students; and

7 Whereas, coaches impart the values of sportsmanship, leadership, and
8 teamwork to the student athletes they train; and

9 Whereas, coaches provide at-risk children with positive activities during
10 critical after-school hours and are necessary in leading the fight against a growing
11 national epidemic of obesity; and

12 Whereas, teachers who coach have the highest level of interest and
13 involvement in the lives of their students; and

14 Whereas, coaches help to facilitate interscholastic athletic competition, which
15 is the most visible means by which the public interacts with students; Now, therefore,
16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

17 **SECTION 1.** Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended
18 by adding a new section to read:

19 "**§ 116-209.36. Coaching and Assistant Coaching Fellows Fund.**

20 (a) There is established the Coaching and Assistant Coaching Scholarship Fund.
21 The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship loans to students who are pursuing
22 college degrees to become coaches. Coaching and Assistant Coaching Fellows should
23 be exposed to a wide range of sports activities while in college. These activities should
24 be geared to instilling a strong motivation not only to remain in the coaching profession
25 but to provide leadership in the schools where they coach. The State Education
26 Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund. The Fund shall provide 25 scholarship
27 loans per year.

1 **(b)** Criteria for awarding the scholarship loans shall be developed by the State
2 Education Assistance Authority in consultation with the Board of Governors of The
3 University of North Carolina and shall include all of the following:

4 **(1)** An applicant shall be enrolled in an accredited bachelors degree
5 program in an institution of higher education in North Carolina.

6 **(2)** All students shall enter into a legal agreement and promissory note
7 with the Authority to accept employment as a coach or coaching
8 assistant in an elementary or secondary school in North Carolina in
9 exchange for receiving any funds, which agreement shall include
10 stipulation that the student agrees to accept employment in rural or
11 other need-based counties.

12 **(3)** An applicant shall be a resident of North Carolina. For purposes of this
13 section, residency shall be determined by the same standard as
14 residency for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.

15 **(4)** Any additional criteria that the State Education Assistance Authority
16 considers necessary to administer the Fund effectively, including all of
17 the following:

18 **a.** Consideration of the appropriate numbers of minority applicants
19 and applicants from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to
20 receive scholarships pursuant to this section.

21 **b.** Consideration of the academic qualifications of the individuals
22 applying to receive funds.

23 **c.** Consideration of the commitment an individual applying to
24 receive funds demonstrates to the profession of coaching.

25 **(c)** The State Education Assistance Authority shall: (i) prepare a clear written
26 explanation of the Coaching and Assistant Coaching Scholarship Fund and the
27 information regarding the availability and criteria for awarding the scholarships, and (ii)
28 shall provide that information to the appropriate counselors in each local school system
29 and shall charge those counselors to inform students about the scholarships and to
30 encourage them to apply for the scholarships.

31 **(d)** The State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund and shall
32 ensure that the loan amounts are limited to six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500)
33 each.

34 **(e)** The Authority shall ensure that the following loan cancellations and
35 repayment schedules apply to all funds distributed pursuant to this section:

36 **(1)** The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who works
37 as a school coach or coaching assistant in a rural or other need-based
38 area of North Carolina shall have that amount of the loan cancelled
39 that is based on the amount of time employed and the number of
40 academic years funds were received. One full year of employment
41 shall cancel one academic year's loan.

42 **(2)** The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who works
43 as a school coach or assistant coach in a rural or other need-based area

1 of North Carolina for the equivalent of the total number of academic
2 years funds were received shall have the entire loan cancelled.

3 (3) The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who does
4 not work as a school coach or assistant coach in a rural or other
5 need-based area of North Carolina for any or all of the equivalent of
6 the number of years funds were received shall repay the loan to the
7 Authority according to a schedule prescribed in the promissory note,
8 plus ten percent (10%) annual interest.

9 (4) The individual who does not graduate with a bachelors degree shall
10 repay the loan according to a schedule prescribed by the Authority, not
11 to exceed fifteen percent (15%) annual interest. In establishing a
12 schedule and interest rate, the Authority shall take into consideration
13 the reasons the individual did not graduate with a bachelors degree.

14 The Authority shall ensure that all repayments, including accrued interest, shall be
15 placed in the Fund.

16 The Authority may forgive or reduce any loan repayment if the Authority considers
17 that extenuating circumstances exist that would make repayment impossible.

18 (f) The State Education Assistance Authority, in consultation with the Board of
19 Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall adopt rules to implement this
20 section.

21 (g) The State Education Assistance Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative
22 Education Oversight Committee by March 1 each year regarding the Fund and
23 scholarships awarded from the Fund."

24 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State
25 Education Assistance Authority the sum of one hundred sixty-two thousand five
26 hundred dollars (\$162,500) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year to implement this act.

27 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.