GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2005

H HOUSE BILL 1706

Short Title:	Scholarsl	hip Lo	oans for	Prospec	ctive Coa	ches.	(Public)	

Sponsors: Representatives Yongue, Tolson, Carney, and Preston (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 12, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COACHING AND ASSISTANT COACHING

SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT

4 THIS ACT.

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

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

Whereas, coaches provide students who are at-risk children of academic failure with positive activities during critical after-school hours; and

Whereas, coaches are necessary in leading the fight against a growing national epidemic of obesity; and

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

Whereas, coaches are among the most influential people in the lives of student athletes; and

Whereas, coaches inspire student athletes to stay in school and to succeed academically; and

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

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

"§ 116-209.36. Coaching and Assistant Coaching Scholarship Fund.

(a) There is established the Coaching and Assistant Coaching Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship loans to students who are pursuing college degrees to become public schoolteachers and coaches. Coaching and Assistant Coaching Fellows shall be offered a curriculum that advances coaching skills and that instills a strong motivation not only to remain in the coaching profession but to provide

- leadership in the schools where they coach. The State Education Assistance Authority
 shall administer the Fund. The Fund shall provide 25 scholarship loans per year.
 - (b) <u>Criteria for awarding the scholarship loans shall be developed by the State</u> <u>Education Assistance Authority in consultation with the Board of Governors of The</u> University of North Carolina and shall include all of the following:
 - (1) An applicant shall be enrolled in an accredited bachelors degree program in an institution of higher education in North Carolina.
 - (2) All students shall enter into a legal agreement and promissory note with the Authority to accept employment as a coach or coaching assistant in an elementary or secondary school in North Carolina in exchange for receiving any funds, which agreement shall include stipulation that the student agrees to accept employment in rural or other need-based counties.
 - (3) An applicant shall be a resident of North Carolina. For purposes of this section, residency shall be determined by the same standard as residency for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.
 - (4) Any additional criteria that the State Education Assistance Authority considers necessary to administer the Fund effectively, including all of the following:
 - a. Consideration of the appropriate numbers of minority applicants and applicants from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to receive scholarships pursuant to this section.
 - <u>b.</u> <u>Consideration of the academic qualifications of the individuals applying to receive funds.</u>
 - c. Consideration of the commitment an individual applying to receive funds demonstrates to the profession of coaching.
 - (c) The State Education Assistance Authority shall: (i) prepare a clear written explanation of the Coaching and Assistant Coaching Scholarship Fund and the information regarding the availability and criteria for awarding the scholarships, and (ii) provide that information to the appropriate counselors in each local school system and shall charge those counselors to inform students about the scholarships and to encourage them to apply for the scholarships.
 - (d) The State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund and shall ensure that the loan amounts are limited to six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) each.
 - (e) The Authority shall ensure that the following loan cancellations and repayment schedules apply to all funds distributed pursuant to this section:
 - (1) The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who works as a school coach or coaching assistant in a rural or other need-based area of North Carolina shall have that amount of the loan cancelled that is based on the amount of time employed and the number of academic years funds were received. One full year of employment shall cancel one academic year's loan.

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- (2) The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who works 1 2 as a school coach or assistant coach in a rural or other need-based area 3 of North Carolina for the equivalent of the total number of academic years funds were received shall have the entire loan cancelled. 4 5 The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who does <u>(3)</u> 6 not work as a school coach or assistant coach in a rural or other need-based area of North Carolina for any or all of the equivalent of 7 8 the number of years funds were received shall repay the loan to the
 - plus ten percent (10%) annual interest.

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

Authority according to a schedule prescribed in the promissory note,

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

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

- (f) The State Education Assistance Authority, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall adopt rules to implement this section.
- (g) The State Education Assistance Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1 each year regarding the Fund and scholarships awarded from the Fund."
- **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the Escheat Fund to the State Education Assistance Authority the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to implement this act.
 - **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.