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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Senator Soto moved the following:

1 **Senate Amendment to Amendment (913116) (with title**
2 **amendment)**

3
4 Between lines 2570 and 2571
5 insert:

6 Section 24. Section 1012.731, Florida Statutes, is created
7 to read:

8 1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Instructional
9 Personnel Scholarship Program.—

10 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
11 instructional personnel play a critical role in preparing



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12 students to achieve a high level of academic performance. The
13 Legislature further recognizes that research has linked student
14 performance to an instructional personnel's own academic
15 achievements. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to
16 designate instructional personnel who have achieved high
17 academic standards during their own education as Florida's Best
18 and Brightest Instructional Personnel scholars.

19 (2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term
20 "school district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and
21 the Blind and a charter school governing board.

22 (3) PROGRAM.—There is created the Florida Best and
23 Brightest Instructional Personnel Scholarship Program to be
24 administered by the Department of Education. Beginning in the
25 2016-2017 school year, the scholarship program shall provide
26 categorical funding for scholarships to be awarded to
27 instructional personnel who have demonstrated a high level of
28 academic achievement.

29 (4) INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—

30 (a) To be eligible for a Florida Best and Brightest
31 Instructional Personnel scholarship, the instructional personnel
32 must be in their third year of teaching; must have scored at or
33 above the 65th percentile on the SAT or the ACT, based upon the
34 percentile ranks in effect when the instructional personnel took
35 the assessment; and must have been evaluated as highly effective
36 pursuant to s. 1012.34.

37 (b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, the
38 instructional personnel must submit to the school district no
39 later than October 1 an official record of his or her SAT or ACT
40 score demonstrating that he or she scored at or above the 65th



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41 percentile, based upon the percentile ranks in effect when he or
42 she took the assessment. If instructional personnel are deemed
43 eligible by the school district, the instructional personnel
44 will remain eligible as long as he or she is employed by the
45 school district and maintains the highly effective level
46 pursuant to s. 1012.34.

47 (5) ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION; FUNDING AND DISBURSEMENT OF
48 FUNDS.—

49 (a) By December 1 of each year, each school district shall
50 submit to the department the number of eligible instructional
51 personnel who qualify for the scholarship.

52 (b) By February 1 of each year, the department shall
53 disburse scholarship funds, in an amount prescribed by the
54 Legislature in the General Appropriations Act, to each school
55 district for eligible instructional personnel to receive a
56 scholarship. If the number of eligible instructional personnel
57 exceeds the total appropriation authorized in the General
58 Appropriation Act, the department shall prorate the per-person
59 scholarship amount.

60 (c) By April 1 of each year, each school district shall
61 provide payment of the scholarship to each eligible
62 instructional personnel.

63
64 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

65 And the title is amended as follows:

66 Delete line 2767

67 and insert:

68 by the act; creating s. 1012.731, F.S.; providing
69 legislative intent; defining the term "school



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70 district"; establishing the Florida Best and Brightest
71 Instructional Personnel Scholarship Program; providing
72 eligibility criteria; requiring a school district to
73 annually submit the number of eligible instructional
74 personnel to the Department of Education; providing
75 for funding and disbursement of funds; providing
76 effective dates.