



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6248



Offered by:
REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 220 File No. 650 Cal. No. 531

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT LITERACY."

1 Strike section 3 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 3. Section 10-156ii of the general statutes is repealed and the
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (a) There is established an aspiring educators [diversity] scholarship
5 program administered by the Department of Education. The program
6 shall provide an annual scholarship to [diverse students] aspiring
7 educators who (1) graduated from a public high school in [an alliance
8 district, as defined in section 10-262u] this state, and (2) are enrolled in
9 a teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher
10 education. [A diverse student] An aspiring educator may receive an
11 annual scholarship in an amount up to ten thousand dollars for each
12 year such [diverse student] aspiring educator is enrolled and in good
13 standing in a teacher preparation program. As used in this section,
14 ["diverse" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-156bb]

15 "aspiring educator" means an individual who is in a population
16 subgroup that is underrepresented in the teaching profession in this
17 state and for which such population subgroup has been identified as a
18 teacher shortage area by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to
19 section 10-8b, as amended by this act.

20 (b) Not later than January 1, [2023] 2027, the department shall, in
21 consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
22 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
23 develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such
24 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1)
25 any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the
26 scholarships to [diverse students] aspiring educators through the
27 teacher preparation programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the
28 notification of students in high school [in alliance districts] of the
29 scholarship program, including the opportunity to apply for a
30 scholarship under the program while enrolled in high school and prior
31 to graduation if such student will be enrolled in a teacher preparation
32 program during the following fall semester at a four-year institution of
33 higher education.

34 (c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, [2024] 2027, and each fiscal year
35 thereafter, the department shall annually award scholarships in
36 accordance with the provisions of this section and the guidelines
37 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

38 (d) The Commissioner of Education shall develop scholarship
39 repayment criteria for recipients who are not employed as a certified
40 teacher by a local or regional board of education in [the] this state
41 following graduation from a teacher preparation program. Any
42 amounts repaid to the department shall be deposited in the General
43 Fund.

44 (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the commissioner shall
45 determine if there are any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes
46 of this section for the fiscal year. If the commissioner determines that

47 there are unexpended funds in said fiscal year, the commissioner shall
48 transfer, not later than July 15, 2026, through a memorandum of
49 understanding with the Comptroller, up to three hundred thousand
50 dollars of such unexpended funds for the purpose of expanding the
51 subsidy program, established pursuant to section 203 of public act 23-
52 204, as amended by section 124 of public act 24-81 and this act, to include
53 paraeducators who are employed by a charter school in the fiscal year
54 ending June 30, 2027.

55 [(e)] (f) The department may accept gifts, grants and donations, from
56 any source, public or private, for the aspiring educators [diversity]
57 scholarship program.

58 [(f)] (g) Not later than January 1, [2024] 2028, and annually thereafter,
59 the department shall develop a report that includes annual data on the
60 [race and ethnicity of the diverse] population subgroups of students
61 who receive a scholarship under the program and the teacher
62 preparation program in which they are enrolled. The department shall
63 submit such report to the joint standing committee of the General
64 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
65 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a."

66 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
67 internal references accordingly:

68 "Sec. 501. (*Effective from passage*) The Comptroller shall calculate the
69 cost of expanding the subsidy program, established pursuant to section
70 203 of public act 23-204, as amended by section 124 of public act 24-81
71 and this act, to include paraeducators who are employed by charter
72 schools. Not later than January 1, 2027, the Comptroller shall submit
73 such cost calculation to the joint standing committees of the General
74 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
75 appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
76 general statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156ii
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	New section