

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**HOUSE BILL 1197**

Short Title:   Revise NC Teaching Fellows Program. (Public)

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Sponsors:   Representatives Ball, von Haefen, Prather, and Johnson-Hostler (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to:  Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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May 5, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO REVISE THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM AND  
TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A STUDY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE TEACHING  
FELLOWS PROGRAM BY THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLABORATORY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART I. INCREASE TEACHING FELLOWS AWARDS**

**SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 116-209.62(g) reads as rewritten:

"(g) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans to selected students to be used at up to 10 selected institutions for completion of a program leading to initial teacher licensure as follows:

- ~~(1) North Carolina high school seniors. – Forgivable loans of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to eight semesters.~~
- ~~(2) Students applying for transfer to a selected educator preparation program at an institution of higher education. – Forgivable loans of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to six semesters.~~
- ~~(3) Individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for teacher licensure. – Forgivable loans of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to four semesters.~~
- ~~(4) Students matriculating at institutions of higher education who are changing to an approved program of study at a selected educator preparation program. – Forgivable loans of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to four semesters.~~

licensure. For individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for teacher licensure, the Program shall provide forgivable loans of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to two academic years. For all other students, the Program shall provide forgivable loans of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to four academic years. Forgivable loans may be used for tuition, fees, the cost of books, and expenses related to obtaining licensure, all expenses related to enrollment in an approved educator preparation program and obtaining licensure, including tuition, fees, and the cost of books."

**SECTION 1.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2026, and applies beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year to all students enrolled in an educator preparation program participating in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.



1 **PART II. PRIOR TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM REVISIONS APPLY**  
2 **RETROACTIVELY TO ALL TEACHING FELLOWS**

3 **SECTION 2.(a)** Subsection (c) of Section 8A.4 of S.L. 2023-134 reads as rewritten:

4 "SECTION 8A.4.(c) This section applies to applications for the award of funds beginning  
5 in the 2024-2025 academic year-year for all persons participating in the Program, including  
6 teachers who are continuing or entering service repayment beginning in the 2024-2025 academic  
7 year."

8 **SECTION 2.(b)** Section 2.14(b) of S.L. 2024-1 reads as rewritten:

9 "SECTION 2.14.(b) This section is effective July 1, 2023, and applies to applications for  
10 the award of funds beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year-year for all persons participating  
11 in the Program, including teachers who are continuing or entering service repayment beginning  
12 in the 2024-2025 academic year."

13  
14 **PART III. REVISE PROCESS FOR SELECTING INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS**

15 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 116-209.62 reads as rewritten:

16 **"§ 116-209.62. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program established; administration.**

17 ...

18 (f) Program Selection Criteria. – The Authority shall administer the Program in  
19 cooperation with up to 10 institutions of higher education with approved educator preparation  
20 programs selected by the Commission that represent a diverse selection of both postsecondary  
21 constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and private postsecondary  
22 institutions operating in the State. The Commission shall adopt stringent standards for selection  
23 of the most effective educator preparation programs, including the following:

- 24 (1) Demonstrates high rates of educator effectiveness on value-added models and  
25 teacher evaluations, including using performance-based, subject-specific  
26 assessment and support systems, such as edTPA or other metrics of evaluating  
27 candidate effectiveness that have predictive validity.
- 28 (2) Demonstrates measurable impact of prior graduates on student learning,  
29 including impact of graduates teaching in qualifying licensure areas.
- 30 (3) Demonstrates high rates of graduates passing exams required for teacher  
31 licensure.
- 32 (4) Provides curricular and co-curricular enhancements in leadership, facilitates  
33 learning for diverse learners, and promotes community engagement,  
34 classroom management, and reflection and assessment.
- 35 (5) Requires at least a minor concentration of study in the subject area that the  
36 candidate may teach.
- 37 (6) Provides early and frequent internship or practical experiences, including the  
38 opportunity for participants to perform practicums in diverse school  
39 environments.
- 40 (7) Is approved by the State Board of Education as an educator preparation  
41 program.
- 42 (8) For an educator preparation program enrolling loan recipients in a program of  
43 study leading to licensure in elementary education (K-6), provides training  
44 that is aligned with the Science of Reading in accordance with  
45 G.S. 115C-269.20. The Commission shall contract with a third-party entity to  
46 biennially evaluate whether a program identified in this subdivision is  
47 providing training that is aligned with the Science of Reading.

48 (f1) Optional Program Evaluation and Term Renewal. – The Commission may establish  
49 a process to regularly evaluate institutions of higher education selected to participate in the  
50 Program to ensure that they continue to meet the requirements of subsection (f) of this section.

1 The Commission may, in its discretion, establish term limits for institutions of higher education  
2 selected to participate in the Program and requirements for renewal of those terms.

3 ...

4 (j) Annual Report. – The Commission, in coordination with the Authority, the  
5 Department of Public Instruction, and the selected educator education programs participating in  
6 the Program shall report no later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, to the Joint  
7 Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the following:

8 ...

9 (4) Outcomes from any evaluation process established by the Commission  
10 pursuant to subsection (f1) of this section, including any term limits set by the  
11 Commission, any renewal process established by the Commission and the  
12 parameters of that process, and any institutions that are no longer participating  
13 in the Program as a result."

14  
15 **PART IV. FRIDAY INSTITUTE TO STUDY TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM**  
16 **PARTICIPATION**

17 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Board of Governors  
18 of The University of North Carolina the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in nonrecurring  
19 funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to be allocated to the North Carolina State University for the  
20 Friday Institute to study student participation in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program,  
21 including the reasons some students opt to repay their loans in cash instead of through service.  
22 The Friday Institute shall report this information to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
23 Committee no later than February 15, 2027.

24  
25 **PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

26 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2026. Except as otherwise provided,  
27 this act applies beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.