

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7202

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support signing and retention bonuses for teachers in rural schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2026

Ms. BYNUM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support signing and retention bonuses for teachers in rural schools, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Invest in Rural Teach-
5 ers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL SCHOOL RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE PRO-**
 2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Elementary and
 4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et
 5 seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating part C as part D; and

7 (2) by inserting after part B, the following:

8 **“PART C—RURAL TEACHER INCENTIVE BONUSES**

9 **“SEC. 2251. RURAL TEACHER INCENTIVE BONUSES.**

10 “(a) GRANTS TO STATES.—

11 “(1) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—The
 12 Secretary shall carry out a program under which the
 13 Secretary makes grants to States to enable States to
 14 award subgrants to eligible entities, in accordance
 15 with subsection (b), to support signing and retention
 16 bonuses for teachers in rural schools.

17 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
 18 grant under this section, a State shall submit an ap-
 19 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
 20 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
 21 retary may require.

22 “(b) SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

23 “(1) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—A State
 24 that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall use
 25 the grant funds to award subgrants to eligible enti-
 26 ties to pay signing and retention bonuses, in accord-

1 ance with paragraph (3), to individuals hired to
2 teach in rural schools.

3 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
4 subgrant under this subsection, an eligible entity
5 shall submit an application to the State at such
6 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
7 tion as the State may require.

8 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that
10 receives a subgrant under paragraph (1) shall
11 use the subgrant funds to award a signing and
12 retention bonus to each teacher hired by the
13 agency who agrees to teach in a rural school for
14 a period of 3 school years.

15 “(B) BONUS AMOUNT AND DISBURSE-
16 MENT.—The amount of the signing and reten-
17 tion bonus paid to a teacher under subpara-
18 graph (A) shall be \$5,000 annually for each
19 year of the 3 school-year period described in
20 such subparagraph.

21 “(4) PRIORITIZATION OF HOMEGROWN TEACH-
22 ERS.—An eligible entity that receives a subgrant
23 under this subsection shall seek to prioritize the re-
24 cruitment, hiring, and award of bonuses to teachers
25 who previously resided in the community served by

1 the entity, including teachers who were born, raised,
2 and educated in such community.

3 “(c) PARTNERSHIPS WITH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
4 EDUCATION.—States and eligible entities shall seek to
5 enter into partnerships with institutions of higher edu-
6 cation for purposes of—

7 “(1) informing students in teacher preparation
8 programs about the availability of rural teacher in-
9 centive bonuses under this section; and

10 “(2) encouraging students in such programs to
11 seek teaching positions in rural schools.

12 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

14 “(A) a local educational agency that meets
15 the requirements of section 5211(b); or

16 “(B) an educational service agency that
17 serves such a local educational agency.

18 “(2) The term ‘rural school’ means a school
19 under the jurisdiction of a local educational agency
20 described in paragraph (1)(A).”.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
22 2003 of such Act is amended by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(c) RURAL TEACHER INCENTIVE BONUSES.—For
25 the purposes of carrying out part C, there are authorized

- 1 to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 2 2027 through 2030.”.

