

1 SB101
2 181791-3
3 By Senators Orr and Reed
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18

1 SB101

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 Relating to education; to provide findings of the
6 Legislature relating to public education; to authorize the
7 State Department of Education, pending available funds, to
8 offer certain grants to public schools for the purpose of
9 developing new advanced educational and specialized programs
10 for gifted or talented children; to require the department to
11 adopt rules providing for the evaluation of applications for
12 grants; to provide public access to applicant scoring; and to
13 require local boards of education to match awarded grant
14 funds.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares the
17 following:

18 (1) It is vital that Alabama's public schools
19 challenge and encourage students who are capable of completing
20 accelerated academic work.

21 (2) Programs to encourage accelerated students can
22 often be maintained by schools, after an initial start cost,
23 with funding roughly equivalent to what they currently
24 receive.

1 (3) This state should encourage schools to develop
2 and implement gifted and talented student programs to provide
3 options for students capable of doing advanced class work.

4 Section 2. (a) The State Department of Education
5 shall award available grants to public schools for the purpose
6 of initiating new programs or continuing existing programs to
7 offer advanced and specialized educational services to gifted
8 or talented children. The number of schools receiving grants
9 under this section shall be determined based upon funds
10 available to the department during a fiscal year.

11 (1) A grant shall be made for a single year, with
12 the rebuttable presumption that the grant will be renewed for
13 a single additional year contingent upon available funding.

14 (2) Grants shall be awarded upon consideration of
15 all of the following criteria:

16 a. Grants should be awarded to programs that offer
17 educational services specifically targeted at gifted or
18 talented children.

19 b. The quality of the proposed curriculum,
20 qualifications of persons acting as instructors, and
21 integration with the infrastructure of the school must be a
22 primary consideration.

23 c. Preference must be given to programs that are
24 offered during the traditional school day or, alternatively,
25 to programs that provide after-school transportation.

1 d. Preference must be given to programs that
2 explicitly provide for the encouragement of participation by
3 students from traditionally underserved populations.

4 e. All programs awarded grants pursuant to this act
5 must provide a means for assessing the impact of the program
6 on participating students' academic growth.

7 (b) The department shall adopt rules providing an
8 explicit formula for evaluating proposals for grants awarded
9 under this section. The scoring of grant applications shall be
10 considered public information.

11 (c) For the purposes of this section, "gifted or
12 talented children" shall mean children who are age four
13 through the age of 19 or children who receive a regular high
14 school diploma, whichever occurs first, who, by virtue of
15 certain outstanding abilities, are capable of a high level of
16 performance in an identified field. The term includes children
17 identified by professionally qualified persons who may require
18 differentiated educational programs or services beyond those
19 normally provided by the regular school program in order to
20 realize those children's full contribution to self and
21 society. The term also includes children who have demonstrated
22 achievement or potential ability in any of the following
23 areas, singularly or in combination:

24 (1) General intellectual ability.

25 (2) Specific academic aptitude.

1 (3) Creative or productive thinking.

2 (4) Leadership ability.

3 (5) Visual and performing arts ability.

4 (6) Psychomotor ability.

5 (d) In the implementation and administration of this
6 act, the State Department of Education shall comply with the
7 guidelines and innovative practices set forth in Chapter 39,
8 Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975.

9 (e) Any funds designated for grants under this
10 section may not affect other funding by the Legislature from
11 any source for programs earmarked for the benefit of gifted or
12 talented children.

13 (f) The appropriate local board of education shall
14 match up to five percent of any grant funds awarded by the
15 department under this act.

16 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
17 first day of the third month following its passage and
18 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB101

Senate 30-JAN-18

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 21-MAR-18

By: Senator Orr