

REFERENCE TITLE: experienced teacher retention pilot program

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-third Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2018

## HB 2139

Introduced by  
Representatives Friese: Alston, Benally, Bolding, Butler, Engel,  
Fernandez, Hernandez, Navarrete, Rios

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE EXPERIENCED TEACHER RETENTION PILOT PROGRAM;  
APPROPRIATING MONIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Experienced teacher retention pilot program;  
3 reports; delayed repeal

4 A. The department of education shall conduct a five-year  
5 experienced teacher retention pilot program. Persons who are selected by  
6 the department of education to participate in the pilot program are  
7 eligible to receive a discount of seventy-five percent on tuition at  
8 universities under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents for  
9 the duration of the pilot program. The department of education shall  
10 establish application procedures for persons who wish to apply to  
11 participate in the pilot program. The department of education, in  
12 collaboration with the Arizona board of regents, shall limit the number of  
13 persons who are selected to participate in the pilot program to ensure  
14 that the cost of the pilot program does not exceed the amount appropriated  
15 for the pilot program. The department shall select applicants to  
16 participate in the pilot program on a first-come, first-served basis.

17 B. The following persons are eligible to participate in the pilot  
18 program:

19 1. A certificated teacher who has been employed at one or more  
20 school districts or charter schools in this state for a total of at least  
21 ten years.

22 2. The spouse of a person who meets the criteria specified in  
23 paragraph 1 of this subsection.

24 3. The dependent of a person who meets the criteria specified in  
25 paragraph 1 of this subsection.

26 4. A certificated teacher who has been employed at one or more  
27 school districts or charter schools for at least three years but fewer  
28 than ten years. A certificated teacher who meets the criteria specified  
29 in this paragraph may use the discount specified in this section only to  
30 obtain one or more graduate degrees from a college of education and shall  
31 sign a contract with the department of education to continue to teach in a  
32 public school in this state for at least two years after obtaining the  
33 graduate degree.

34 C. If a program participant receives discounted tuition pursuant to  
35 subsection B of this section and fails to fulfill the service requirement  
36 under the contract, or if the program participant's teacher certificate is  
37 revoked by the state board of education pursuant to title 15, Arizona  
38 Revised Statutes, the program participant shall repay the amount of the  
39 discounted tuition to the department of education.

40 D. Each university that enrolls a program participant shall submit  
41 an invoice to the department of education to reimburse the university for  
42 the amount of the discounted tuition for that participant. The  
43 department, after verifying the amount of the invoice and the person's  
44 participation in the pilot program, shall distribute to that university an

1 amount to reimburse the university for the amount of the discounted  
2 tuition for that participant from monies appropriated for this purpose.

3 E. The department of education, in collaboration with the Arizona  
4 board of regents, shall submit an initial report on or before  
5 September 15, 2021 and a final report on or before September 15, 2024 that  
6 summarizes the department's findings and conclusions about the number of  
7 people who participated in the pilot program, the impact of the pilot  
8 program on the teacher shortage in this state and the effectiveness of the  
9 pilot program. The department shall submit the reports to the governor,  
10 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
11 senate and shall provide a copy of the reports to the secretary of state.

12 F. The department of education may adopt policies and procedures to  
13 carry out the purposes of the pilot program.

14 G. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2024.

15 Sec. 2. Appropriations; department of education; experienced  
16 teacher retention pilot program; exemption

17 A. The following sums are appropriated from the state general fund  
18 in the following fiscal years to the department of education for the costs  
19 of the experienced teacher retention pilot program:

20 1. In fiscal year 2018-2019, \$2,500,000.

21 2. In each of fiscal years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and  
22 2022-2023, \$5,000,000.

23 B. The department may retain up to two percent of the monies  
24 appropriated each fiscal year pursuant to subsection A of this section to  
25 administer the pilot program.

26 C. The appropriations made in subsection A of this section are  
27 exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
28 relating to lapsing of appropriations, except that all monies remaining  
29 unencumbered or unexpended on July 1, 2024 revert to the state general  
30 fund.