



## **H.B. 118**

125th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Rep. Blasdel**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the Department of Education in fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to pay \$1,940,000 from a federal grant for improving teacher quality to the Columbiana County Educational Service Center for use by the Ohio Wyami Appalachian Teacher Cohorts for operation of professional development activities for teachers in Appalachian counties.
- States the General Assembly's intent to set aside funds for this purpose in fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill requires the Department of Education, in each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005, to pay \$1,940,000 to the Columbiana County Educational Service Center from federal funds that are appropriated for "Grants For Improving Teacher Quality."<sup>1</sup> The Service Center must use that amount to fund teacher professional development activities conducted by the Ohio Wyami Appalachian Teacher Cohorts Program "for approximately eighty public and charter nonpublic teachers from Ohio's Appalachian counties."<sup>2</sup> The Wyami Program must use the funds to

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<sup>1</sup> In Section 40 of H.B. 95 of the 125th General Assembly, As Introduced (February 27, 2003), which contains the Governor's proposed budget for the 2003-2005 biennium, \$103,686,420 and \$104,100,000 for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, respectively, in federal funds are anticipated for "Improving Teacher Quality" under item 3Y6 200-635.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of development programs conducted by the Governor's Office of Appalachian Ohio, R.C. 107.21(A) provides that the "Appalachian region" means the following Ohio counties, which have been designated as part of Appalachia by the federal Appalachian Regional Commission: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington.

provide professional development that is supported by a review of scientifically based research and is expected to improve student academic achievement as required by Title II of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001."<sup>3</sup>

The bill further states that it is the intent of the General Assembly to continue funding of these Wyami Program activities for 80 teachers in Appalachian counties during fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008 and to set aside funds for those fiscal years.

Finally, the bill specifies that its provisions take effect immediately.

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## COMMENT

Reportedly, the Ohio Wyami Appalachian Teacher Cohorts Program is a collaborative made up of the Columbiana County Educational Service Center and Miami University. The Program proposes to offer grants to 80 teachers from Appalachian counties to pay tuition, room and board, supplies, and partial travel expenses to attend summer and weekend courses for college credit emphasizing science, environmental issues, and native American literature.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-11-03	p. 218

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<sup>3</sup> *The "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" is an extensive reauthorization of the Elementary Education and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which is the major federal law affecting the educational requirements and funding of public elementary and secondary schools. Effective January 8, 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act has as its stated intent to improve the education of all children by focusing on (1) stricter accountability, both at the school and district level, (2) frequent assessments in reading and math, (3) greater school choice for students, especially those in poorly performing schools, (4) teacher quality, and (5) increased flexibility in the spending of federal funds. Title II of the act (115 Stat. 1425, 20 U.S.C. 6612 et seq.) deals with teacher professional development and other activities to ensure that each child is taught by a "highly qualified teacher."*