

1 SB101  
2 181791-2  
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 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL  
8 TO BE ENTITLED  
9 AN ACT

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

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares the  
23 following:

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

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

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

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

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

18           (2) Grants shall be awarded upon consideration of  
19 all of the following criteria:

20           a. Grants should be awarded to programs that offer  
21 educational services specifically targeted at gifted or  
22 talented children.

23           b. The quality of the proposed curriculum,  
24 qualifications of persons acting as instructors, and  
25 integration with the infrastructure of the school must be a  
26 primary consideration.

1           c. Preference must be given to programs that are  
2 offered during the traditional school day or, alternatively,  
3 to programs that provide after-school transportation.

4           d. Preference must be given to programs that  
5 explicitly provide for the encouragement of participation by  
6 students from traditionally underserved populations.

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

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

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

27           (1) General intellectual ability.

- 1                   (2) Specific academic aptitude.
- 2                   (3) Creative or productive thinking.
- 3                   (4) Leadership ability.
- 4                   (5) Visual and performing arts ability.
- 5                   (6) Psychomotor ability.

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

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

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

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

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate  
committee on Finance and Taxation Education ..... 09-JAN-18

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-  
dar..... 23-JAN-18

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 30-JAN-18

Yeas 30  
Nays 0  
Abstaining 1

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.