

CHAPTER 344

EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

HOUSE BILL 08-1255

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gardner C., Carroll M., Carroll T., Ferrandino, Fischer, Gallegos, Hodge, Jahn, Kerr A., Kerr J., King, Labuda, Massey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Middleton, Peniston, Roberts, Romanoff, Scanlan, Solano, Sonnenberg, Stafford, Stephens, Summers, Todd, Buescher, Gardner B., and Looper;
also SENATOR(S) Gibbs and Brophy, Groff, Isgar, Kester, Mitchell S., Penry, Sandoval, Schwartz, Shaffer, Spence, Tapia, Taylor, Veiga, Ward, Wiens, and Williams.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PILOT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, EXPANDING THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM WITHIN RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 23-3.9-101 (5), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

23-3.9-101. Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(5) "Rural school district" means a school district that does not include within its geographic boundaries a municipality exceeding ~~one~~ FIVE thousand persons and that is characterized by sparse, widespread populations.

SECTION 2. 23-3.9-102 (1) (b) and (2) (d) (III), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended, and the said 23-3.9-102 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

23-3.9-102. Teacher loan forgiveness pilot program - administration - fund - conditions. (1) (b) There is hereby created the teacher loan forgiveness fund, which ~~consists~~ SHALL CONSIST of all moneys appropriated THERETO by the general assembly for the teacher loan forgiveness pilot program and any gifts, grants, and donations received for said purpose. Moneys in the fund are hereby continuously appropriated to the department of higher education for the teacher loan forgiveness pilot program. At the end of any fiscal year, all unexpended and unencumbered moneys in the fund shall remain therein and shall not be credited or transferred to

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

the general fund or any other fund.

(2) In addition to any qualifications specified by the commission, to qualify for the teacher loan forgiveness pilot program, a teacher shall:

(d) (III) ~~Contract to~~ INITIALLY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND teach in a qualified position, as defined in section 23-3.9-101 (4) (a), on or after June 1, 2005, and no later than the end of the ~~2008-09~~ 2012-13, academic year;

(3.5) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, A TEACHER WHO QUALIFIES UNDER SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, INITIALLY APPLIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM IN ANY OF ACADEMIC YEARS 2009-10, TO 2012-13, AND TEACHES IN A HIGH-POVERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EACH OF THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF TEACHING IN A QUALIFIED POSITION AND UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS OF TEACHING IN A QUALIFIED POSITION.

SECTION 3. 23-3.9-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

23-3.9-104. Repeal of article. This article is repealed, effective July 1, ~~2013~~ 2019.

SECTION 4. Effective date. This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting a referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state constitution, (August 6, 2008, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2008); except that, if a referendum petition is filed against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part, if approved by the people, shall take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor.

Approved: May 29, 2008