S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

1221--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the empire engineers initiative act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "the empire engineers initiative act".

S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 679-h to read as follows:

S 679-H. NEW YORK STATE ENGINEERS LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM. 1. PURPOSE. THE PRESIDENT SHALL GRANT STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS AWARDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ENGINEERS SERVING IN NEW YORK CITY AND THE REST OF THE STATE.

2. ELIGIBILITY. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, APPLICANTS SHALL (A) HAVE RECEIVED A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY; (B) COMPLY WITH SUBDIVISIONS THREE AND FIVE OF SECTION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE OF THIS PART; (C) HAVE AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT LOAN DEBT; AND (D) ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CORPORATION TO PERFORM ENGINEERING SERVICES WITHIN THE STATE.

3. AWARDS. THE CORPORATION SHALL GRANT AWARDS IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO FIFTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL TUITION CHARGED TO THE STUDENT BY ALL SCHOOLS OR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL TUITION CHARGED TO A STATE RESIDENT STUDENT ATTENDING AN ENGINEERING PROGRAM AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, WHICHEVER IS LESS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION OF ANY SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR OTHER FINANCIAL AWARDS. AWARDS SHALL BE WITHIN THE AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH PURPOSE AND BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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4. CONVERSION. THE CORPORATION SHALL CONVERT TO A STUDENT LOAN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AWARD GIVEN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, PLUS INTEREST, ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CORPORATION IF: (A) AT ANY POINT IN THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD AFTER RECEIPT OF SUCH AWARD THE RECIPIENT IS NOT EMPLOYED AS AN ENGINEER LOCATED WITHIN NEW YORK STATE; OR (B) A RECIPIENT FAILS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS BY THE CORPORATION REGARDING HIS OR HER PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

5. RULES AND REGULATIONS. THE CORPORATION IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING A METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE PRIORITY IN WHICH AWARDS ARE DISTRIBUTED. WHEN DETERMINING RULES CONCERNING PRIORITY, THE CORPORATION SHALL TAKE SUCH ACTION TO ENSURE THAT THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION IS FULFILLED, AND SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED THEIR DEGREE FROM A NEW YORK BASED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY. IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE MORE APPLICANTS WHO HAVE THE SAME PRIORITY THAN THERE ARE REMAINING AWARDS, THE CORPORATION SHALL PROVIDE IN REGULATION THE METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING THE REMAINING NUMBER OF SUCH AWARDS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE A LOTTERY OR OTHER FORM OF RANDOM SELECTION.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.