

4963

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 24, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing loan forgiveness for agriculture educators

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

1     Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 679-h  
2     to read as follows:

3     S 679-H. NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURE EDUCATORS LOAN FORGIVENESS INCEN-  
4     TIVE PROGRAM. 1. DEFINITION. THE TERM "AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR" MEANS AN  
5     INSTRUCTOR WHO PROVIDES DIDACTIC INSTRUCTION TO STUDENTS ABOUT AGRICUL-  
6     TURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES DELIVERED THROUGH LESSONS IN SCIENCE,  
7     COMMUNICATIONS, LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.

8     2. PURPOSE. THE PRESIDENT SHALL GRANT STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS AWARDS  
9     FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLEVIATING THE BURDEN OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT FOR AGRI-  
10    CULTURE EDUCATORS TEACHING IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN NEW  
11    YORK STATE. SUCH AWARDS SHALL BE MADE ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS AS PROMUL-  
12    GATED BY THE CORPORATION FOR SUCH PURPOSES, TO APPLICANTS WHO MEET THE  
13    ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA. SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE  
14    PROVISIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY  
15    DISADVANTAGED.

16    3. ELIGIBILITY. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,  
17    APPLICANTS SHALL:

18    (A) HAVE GRADUATED AND OBTAINED A DEGREE FROM AN APPROVED NEW YORK  
19    STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;

20    (B) HAVE AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT LOAN DEBT FROM OBTAINING SUCH DEGREE;

21    (C) BE EMPLOYED AS AN AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR IN NEW YORK STATE;

22    (D) APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM WITHIN TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE GRADUATION; AND

23    (E) COMPLY WITH SUBDIVISIONS THREE AND FIVE OF SECTION SIX HUNDRED  
24    SIXTY-ONE OF THIS PART.

25    4. AWARDS. THE CORPORATION SHALL GRANT SUCH AWARDS WITHIN AMOUNTS  
26    APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

27    S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
28    have become a law.

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

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