STATE OF NEW YORK

2550--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2017

Introduced by Sens. LAVALLE, HELMING -- 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 establishing the New York state educating leaders for excellence in community transformation program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 669-i to read as follows:

§ 669-i. New York state educating leaders for excellence in community transformation (NY-ELECTs). 1. Purpose. The New York state educating leaders for excellence in community transformation (NY-ELECTs) program is hereby established to provide loan forgiveness or scholarship awards to students who demonstrate excellence in student government, civic organizations, or through campus or community leadership activities.

2. Eligibility. a. To be eligible for such awards, an applicant must have graduated from a New York state high school, be enrolled in a program of study in a New York state post-secondary institution beginning in the two thousand eighteen-two thousand nineteen academic year or thereafter, and have either:

(i) been granted an associate's degree within two years of having entered the program;

(ii) been granted an associate's degree within two years of having entered the program and have enrolled in a four year institution with the equivalent number of transferable credits to be considered entering such program designated as a junior; or

(iii) been enrolled in a four year degree program, and have successfully completed freshman and sophomore years within two years.

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

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b. An applicant must also have:

(i) maintained a 3.0 grade point average or above;

(ii) been involved in or held leadership positions in student government, civic clubs or organizations, or demonstrated leadership in campus or community activities, as determined by the department; and

(iii) agreed to live and work in New York state upon graduation for at least two of the next five years, and if the award is a scholarship award, agree to have such award converted into a student loan if such applicant fails to fulfill this requirement.

3. Loan forgiveness awards. A qualifying applicant may file an application with the department for a loan forgiveness award if such applicant meets the requirements of subparagraph (i) of paragraph a and paragraph b of subdivision two of this section.

4. Scholarship awards. A qualifying applicant may file an application with the department if such applicant meets the requirements of subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of paragraph a and paragraph b of subdivision two of this section.

5. Awards. Within amounts appropriated therefor, the president shall grant loan forgiveness or scholarship awards to eligible applicants for the duration of two years. Such awards shall not exceed six thousand five hundred dollars per year; and shall not exceed the total cost of student loan debt for a loan forgiveness award, or shall not exceed the total cost of tuition at a four year institution within the state university of New York system after any other state or federal financial aid is applied.

6. Rules. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, and may promulgate emergency regulations, necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.