

STATE OF NEW YORK

7273

IN SENATE

January 5, 2018

Introduced by Sen. RANZENHOFER -- 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 incentive programs for teaching those with disabilities

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 669-i
2 to read as follows:

3 § 669-i. New York state teaching those with disabilities incentive
4 program. 1. Eligibility. Notwithstanding subdivision five of section six
5 hundred sixty-one of this part, undergraduate and/or graduate students
6 who are matriculated in an approved undergraduate or graduate program at
7 degree granting institutions located within the state of New York lead-
8 ing to a career as a primary or secondary teacher in, or leading to a
9 license to provide therapeutic support of students in, a school provid-
10 ing special education as defined in this section, shall be eligible for
11 an award under this section, provided the applicant:

12 (a) signs a contract with the corporation agreeing to teach in the
13 classroom or provide therapeutic services on a full-time basis for five
14 years in a school providing special education as defined in this section
15 located within New York; and

16 (b) complies with the applicable provisions of this article and all
17 requirements promulgated by the corporation for the administration of
18 the program.

19 2. Amount. Within amounts appropriated therefor, awards shall be
20 granted to applicants that the corporation has certified are eligible to
21 receive such awards. Up to five hundred awards may be made to new recip-
22 ients annually. Such awards shall be made to recipients after the
23 successful completion of each academic year, as defined by the corpo-
24 ration.

25 3. Duration. An award shall entitle the recipient to annual payments
26 for not more than four academic years of full-time undergraduate study
27 and one academic year of full-time graduate study leading to certif-

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

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1 ication as a classroom teacher or a license to provide therapeutic care
2 in a school providing special education as defined in this section.

3 4. Conditions. Recipients shall receive an annual payment for the
4 successful completion of an academic year, equal to the annual tuition
5 charged to state resident students attending an undergraduate program
6 full-time at the state university of New York, or actual tuition
7 charged, whichever is less.

8 5. Recipient. The corporation shall convert to a student loan the full
9 amount of the award given pursuant to this section, plus interest,
10 according to a schedule to be determined by the corporation if:

11 (a) two years after the completion of the degree program and receipt
12 of initial certification it is found that a recipient is not teaching or
13 providing therapeutic services in a school providing special education
14 as defined in this section located within New York state on a full-time
15 basis; or

16 (b) a recipient has not taught or provided therapeutic services in a
17 school providing special education as defined in this section located
18 within New York state on a full-time basis for five of the seven years
19 after the completion of the degree program and receipt of initial
20 certification or license; or

21 (c) a recipient fails to complete his or her degree program or changes
22 majors to an undergraduate degree program other than in primary or
23 secondary education or other therapeutic service in a school providing
24 special education as defined in this section; or

25 (d) a recipient fails to receive or maintain their teaching certifi-
26 cate or license to provide therapeutic treatment in New York state; or

27 (e) a recipient fails to respond to requests by the corporation for
28 the status of his or her academic or professional progress. The terms
29 and conditions of this subdivision shall be deferred for any inter-
30 ruption in undergraduate or graduate study or employment as established
31 by the rules and regulations of the corporation. Any obligation to
32 comply with such provisions as outlined in this section shall be
33 cancelled upon the death of the recipient. Notwithstanding any
34 provisions of this subdivision to the contrary, the corporation is
35 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the waiver
36 or suspension of any financial obligation which would involve extreme
37 hardship.

38 6. Authorization. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules
39 and regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of
40 this section, including the criteria for the provision of awards on a
41 competitive basis and the rate of interest charged for repayment of the
42 student loan.

43 7. Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

44 (a) "school providing special education" shall be defined as a school
45 created by chapter eight hundred fifty-three of the laws of nineteen
46 hundred seventy-six, a school created by a special act of the legisla-
47 ture for the purpose of providing education services to students who
48 reside in child care institutions, state supported schools established
49 by the legislature pursuant to section four thousand two hundred one of
50 this chapter or state operated schools established pursuant to article
51 eighty-seven of this chapter; and

52 (b) "therapeutic support" shall be defined as counselling, clinical
53 support, nursing, behavior therapy, speech therapy, occupational thera-
54 py, physical therapy or social work.

55 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
56 have become a law.