

STATE OF NEW YORK

10689

IN ASSEMBLY

July 1, 2020

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Thiele) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the
New York state COVID-19 heroes loan forgiveness program

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 903-a to read as follows:

3 § 903-a. New York state COVID-19 heroes loan forgiveness program. 1.
4 Purpose. The commissioner, in collaboration with the commissioner of
5 education, and the president of the higher education services corpo-
6 ration, is authorized and directed to establish a New York state COVID-
7 19 heroes loan forgiveness program.

8 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this section,
9 applicants shall:

10 (a) be a physician or a professional or practical nurse, nurse practi-
11 tioner, or clinical nurse specialist, physician assistant or specialist
12 assistant in New York state in accordance with sections sixty-five
13 hundred twenty-four, sixty-nine hundred five, sixty-nine hundred six,
14 sixty-nine hundred ten and sixty-nine hundred eleven, and sixty-five
15 hundred forty-one and sixty-five hundred forty-eight of the education
16 law; or

17 (b) be a certified first responder, emergency medical technician, or
18 advanced emergency medical technician, as defined pursuant to section
19 three thousand one of this chapter; or

20 (c) be an active volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker
21 in New York state, as defined pursuant to sections two hundred fifteen
22 and two hundred nineteen-c of the general municipal law; and

23 (d) be a resident of New York state and have served in such capacity
24 in New York state in direct response to the COVID-19 public health emer-
25 gency, pursuant to Executive Order 202, issued by the governor on March
26 seventh, two thousand twenty.

27 3. Awards. The commissioner shall grant awards pursuant to the amount
28 appropriated for such purpose and based on availability of funds in an

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

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1 amount up to one hundred thousand dollars to individuals who meet the
2 eligibility requirements of subdivision two of this section, provided
3 that loan repayment awards shall not exceed the total qualifying
4 outstanding debt from student loans to cover tuition and other related
5 educational expenses, made by or guaranteed by the federal or state
6 government, or made by a lending or educational institution approved
7 under title IV of the federal higher education act. Loan repayment
8 awards shall be used solely to repay such outstanding debt.

9 4. Rules and regulations. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate
10 rules and regulations and may promulgate emergency regulations necessary
11 for the implementation of the provisions of this section.

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