## STATE OF NEW YORK

5927--A

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

May 16, 2019

Introduced by Sens. STAVISKY, JACKSON, PARKER -- 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 establishment of the PRODi-G EOP to PhD loan forgiveness program

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

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 20 to read as follows:

20. PRODi-G EOP to PhD loan forgiveness program. a. Program. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the state university trustees are authorized to grant student loan forgiveness awards pursuant to this subdivision in order to recruit and retain faculty members from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds at the state university of New York.

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b. Eliqibility. First priority for awards pursuant to this subdivision 10 shall go to applicants who were previously enrolled in the educational opportunity program as defined in section sixty-four hundred fifty-two 11 12 of this chapter. To be eliqible for an award pursuant to this subdivi-13 sion, an applicant shall: (i) have graduated from a high school located in New York state or attended an approved New York state program for a state high school equivalency diploma and received such high school 16 equivalency diploma; (ii) have graduated and obtained a graduate degree 17 from a college or university from the state university of New York in or 18 after the two thousand twenty--twenty-one academic year; (iii) apply for this program within two years of obtaining such degree; and (iv) be 19 employed as an eligible faculty member, at the state university of New

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

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York. The state university of New York may establish additional eligibility criteria as it deems necessary and appropriate.

- c. Selection process. The state university of New York shall establish a process for selecting award recipients, including but not limited to setting application submission requirements and a method of selecting recipients if there are insufficient funds to cover the needs of all applicants.
- 8 d. Awards. Loan forgiveness awards may be granted to reimburse an 9 award recipient's student loan expenses up to a maximum of ten thousand 10 dollars per qualifying year of academic service, as defined by the state 11 university of New York, up to a maximum of five years. Awards shall be granted within the amounts appropriated for such purpose and based on 12 the availability of funds. For the purposes of this subdivision, 13 14 "student loan expense" shall mean the total loan balance required to be paid by the award recipient on the cumulative total of the award recipi-15 16 ent's outstanding student loans covering his or her cost of attendance 17 at an undergraduate institution and/or graduate school, at the time of the award recipient's first application for reimbursement. Interest 18 19 paid or due on such loans shall be considered eligible for reimbursement 20 under this program. For purposes of this calculation, the amount of the 21 student loan expenses shall be reduced by any grants, loan forgiveness, or similar reductions to the faculty member's indebtedness that the 22 faculty member has received or shall receive, including, but not limited 23 to, graduate school loan forgiveness and public service scholarships. 24 The state university of New York is authorized to impose service 25 26 requirements or other similar conditions upon acceptance of an award 27 pursuant to this subdivision.
- e. Rules and regulations. The state university of New York is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, and may promulgate emergency regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this subdivision.
- 32 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.