

STATE OF NEW YORK

423

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ROZIC, COOK, HEVESI, SANTABARBARA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABBATE, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the empire engineers initiative act

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "the empire
2 engineers initiative act".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 679-k to
4 read as follows:

5 § 679-k. New York state engineers loan forgiveness program. 1.
6 Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness awards for
7 the purpose of increasing the number of engineers serving in New York
8 city and the rest of the state.

9 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this section,
10 applicants shall (a) have received a degree in engineering from an
11 accredited college or university; (b) comply with subdivisions three and
12 five of section six hundred sixty-one of this part; (c) have an
13 outstanding student loan debt; and (d) enter into a contract with the
14 corporation to perform engineering services within the state.

15 3. Awards. The corporation shall grant awards in an amount equal to
16 fifty percent of the total tuition charged to the student by all schools
17 or fifty percent of the total tuition charged to a state resident
18 student attending an engineering program at the state university of New
19 York, whichever is less prior to the application of any scholarships,
20 grants, or other financial awards. Awards shall be within the amounts
21 appropriated for such purpose and based on availability of funds.

22 4. Conversion. The corporation shall convert to a student loan the
23 full amount of the award given pursuant to this section, plus interest,

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

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1 according to a schedule to be determined by the corporation if: (a) at
2 any point in the five year period after receipt of such award the recip-
3 ient is not employed as an engineer located within New York state; or
4 (b) a recipient fails to respond to requests by the corporation regard-
5 ing his or her professional status.

6 5. Rules and regulations. The corporation is authorized to promulgate
7 rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions
8 of this section, including a method for determining the priority in
9 which awards are distributed. When determining rules concerning priori-
10 ty, the corporation shall take such action to ensure that the intent of
11 this section is fulfilled, and shall give preference to individuals who
12 received their degree from a New York based college or university. In
13 the event that there are more applicants who have the same priority than
14 there are remaining awards, the corporation shall provide in regulation
15 the method of distributing the remaining number of such awards, which
16 may include a lottery or other form of random selection.

17 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
18 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.