STATE OF NEW YORK

4164

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 2, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 the New York state dental faculty loan forgiveness incentive 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 679-k to read as follows:

§ 679-k. New York state dental faculty loan forgiveness incentive program. 1. Purpose. a. Process. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness awards for the purpose of increasing the number of educators and adjunct clinical faculty teaching in the field of dental education in New York state. Such awards shall be made on a competitive basis as promulgated by the corporation through rules and regulations, to applicants who are licensed dentists with previous clinical experience in dentistry who have completed coursework that qualifies them as dental faculty or adjunct clinical faculty. The president may contract with a third party for purposes of administering the competitive process required under this paragraph.

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

(i) be licensed as a dentist;

(ii) have an outstanding student loan debt from a dental degree program;

(iii) have taken coursework that qualified them as dental faculty or adjunct clinical faculty;

(iv) be employed as a faculty member at a dental school located in New York state; and

(v) comply with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred sixty-one of this part.

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

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c. Award. An award of forty thousand dollars shall be made annually to recipients who have provided classroom or clinical instruction of not less than twelve academic credit hours, or its equivalent, as dental faculty or in clinical teaching service in the academic year preceding the granting of the award, provided that no recipient shall receive cumulative awards, pursuant to this section, in excess of one hundred sixty thousand dollars.

d. Other awards. Award recipients shall be eligible to apply for other awards.

e. Curriculum development. The president shall contract with a third party for purposes of developing a uniform curriculum on academic dentistry, which shall serve as the basis for the coursework required under paragraph a of subdivision one of this section. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this section, sections one hundred twelve and one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law, or any other provision of law, such contract shall be awarded to an association representing the New York state academic dental centers without a competitive bid or request for proposal process.

2. Duration. Loan forgiveness awards shall be made annually to applicants whom the corporation has certified are eligible to receive such awards and have provided dental faculty or clinical dental faculty services required pursuant to this article; provided that no award shall be granted for more than four years.

3. Amount. The corporation shall grant such awards within the amounts appropriated for such purpose and based on availability of funds in an amount not to exceed the total cost of the student loan debt.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.