STATE OF NEW YORK

4890

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PICHARDO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

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 21 to read as follows:

21. 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.

b. Eligibility. First priority for awards pursuant to this subdivision shall go to applicants who were previously enrolled in the educational opportunity program as defined in section sixty-four hundred fifty-two of this chapter. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this subdivision, 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 equivalency diploma; (ii) have graduated and obtained a graduate degree from a college or university from the state university of New York in or after the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two academic year; (iii) apply for this program within two years of obtaining such degree; and (iv) be employed as an eligible faculty member, at the state university of New 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

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

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recipients if there are insufficient funds to cover the needs of all applicants.

d. Awards. Loan forgiveness awards may be granted to reimburse an award recipient's student loan expenses up to a maximum of ten thousand dollars per qualifying year of academic service, as defined by the state 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 the availability of funds. For the purposes of this subdivision, "student loan expense" shall mean the total loan balance required to be paid by the award recipient on the cumulative total of the award recipient's outstanding student loans covering his or her cost of attendance at an undergraduate institution and/or graduate school, at the time of the award recipient's first application for reimbursement. Interest paid or due on such loans shall be considered eligible for reimbursement under this program. For purposes of this calculation, the amount of the student loan expenses shall be reduced by any grants, loan forgiveness, or similar reductions to the faculty member's indebtedness that the faculty member has received or shall receive, including, but not limited to, graduate school loan forgiveness and public service scholarships. The state university of New York is authorized to impose service requirements or other similar conditions upon acceptance of an award 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.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.