STATE OF NEW YORK

5407

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 4, 2021

Introduced by Sen. RATH -- 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 enacting the New York state rural teaching 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 669-i to read as follows:

§ 669-i. New York state rural teaching incentive program. 1. Eligibility. Notwithstanding subdivision five of section six hundred sixty-one of this part, undergraduate and/or graduate students who are matriculated in an approved undergraduate or graduate program at degree granting institutions located within the state of New York leading to a career as a primary or secondary teacher shall be eligible for an award under this section, provided the applicant: (a) signs a contract with the corporation agreeing to teach in the classroom on a full-time basis for five years in a rural public primary or secondary school located within New York; and (b) complies with the applicable provisions of this article and all requirements promulgated by the corporation for the administration of the program.

2. Within amounts appropriated therefor, awards shall be granted to applicants that the corporation has certified are eligible to receive such awards. Up to five hundred awards may be made to new recipients annually. Such awards shall be made to recipients after the successful completion of each academic year, as defined by the corporation.

3. An award shall entitle the recipient to annual payments for not more than four academic years of full-time undergraduate study and one academic year of full-time graduate study leading to certification as a classroom teacher in a primary or secondary public school.

4. Recipients shall receive an annual payment for the successful completion of an academic year, equal to the annual tuition charged to

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

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state resident students attending an undergraduate program full-time at the state university of New York, or actual tuition charged, whichever is less.

5. The corporation shall convert to a student loan the full amount of the award given pursuant to this section, plus interest, according to a schedule to be determined by the corporation if: (a) two years after the completion of the degree program and receipt of initial certification it is found that a recipient is not teaching in a rural public school located within New York state providing primary or secondary education; or (b) a recipient has not taught in a rural public primary or secondary school located within New York state for five of the seven years after the completion of the degree program and receipt of initial certification; or (c) a recipient fails to complete their degree program or changes majors to an undergraduate degree program other than in primary or secondary education; or (d) a recipient fails to receive or maintain their teaching certificate or license in New York state; or (e) a recipient fails to respond to requests by the corporation for the status of his or her academic or professional progress. The terms and conditions of this subdivision shall be deferred for any interruption in undergraduate or graduate study or employment as established by the rules and regulations of the corporation. Any obligation to comply with such provisions as outlined in this section shall be cancelled upon the death of the recipient. Notwithstanding any provisions of this subdivision to the contrary, the corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the waiver or suspension of any financial obligation which would involve extreme hardship.

6. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section, including the criteria for the provision of awards on a competitive basis and the rate of interest charged for repayment of the student loan.

7. For the purposes of this section, a rural public school shall be defined as a public school located in a rural area as defined in subdivision three of section twelve hundred three of this title.

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