STATE OF NEW YORK

1017

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing loan forgiveness to credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselors

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. Credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor loan forgiveness program. 1. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness awards to credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselors for the purpose of increasing the number of individuals serving in the service area of substance abuse counseling.

2. Certification. Credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor loan forgiveness awards shall be awarded each year. Such awards shall be allocated as provided in this section to eligible credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselors, hereinafter referred to as CASACs, as certified to the commissioner by the president.

3. Definition. For the purposes of this section, a CASAC shall mean an alcoholism and substance abuse counselor credentialed in accordance with the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations Title 14 Section 853.5.

4. Eligibility. A CASAC shall be eligible for an award under this section provided that: (i) such person has been a resident of the state of New York for a minimum of one year and (ii) such person is employed as a CASAC in a facility licensed by the state of New York.

5. Duration. Each award shall entitle the recipient to an annual award and a recipient shall be eligible for no more than three years.

6. Amount. The corporation shall grant such awards based on availability of funds in an amount not to exceed the total cost of the student loan debt.

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

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7. Rules and regulations. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, and may promulgate emergency regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2025.