STATE OF NEW YORK

5479

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 13, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing loan forgiveness for agriculture educators

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 agriculture educators loan forgiveness incentive program. 1. Definition. The term "agriculture educator" means an instructor who provides didactic instruction to students about agriculture, food and natural resources delivered through lessons in science, communications, leadership, management and technology.

2. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness awards for the purpose of alleviating the burden of student loan debt for agriculture educators teaching in the field of agriculture education in New York state. Such awards shall be made on a competitive basis as promulgated by the corporation for such purposes, to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. Such rules and regulations shall include provisions for the consideration of applicants who are economically disadvantaged.

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

(a) have graduated and obtained a degree from an approved New York state college or university;

(b) have an outstanding student loan debt from obtaining such degree;

(c) be employed as a full-time agriculture educator in New York state for at least two years;

(d) reside in New York state for at least two years post graduation;

(e) apply for this program within two years of college graduation; and

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

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

4. Awards. The corporation shall grant such awards within amounts appropriated for such purposes and based on the availability of funds.

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