STATE OF NEW YORK

8375

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 13, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing loan forgiveness for social workers

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 social worker loan forgiveness incentive program. 1. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness awards for the purpose of alleviating the burden of student loan debt for social workers 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.

2. 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 licensed master social worker or licensed clinical social worker in New York state in accordance with article one hundred fifty-four of this chapter;

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

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

(f) make a commitment to practice in a county with less than two hundred thousand population, or any town which has a population of less than one hundred fifty persons per square mile for the duration of the award.

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

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3. 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.