

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3244

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- 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 creating the small business employees loan forgiveness incentive program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 679-k  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 679-k. New York state small business employees loan forgiveness  
4 incentive program. 1. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan  
5 forgiveness awards for the purpose of increasing the number of individ-  
6 uals who choose to work for a small business in New York state.

7 2. Eligibility. (a) To be eligible to receive an award pursuant to  
8 this section, an applicant must be a resident of New York state who has  
9 graduated from an institution of higher education and has an outstanding  
10 student loan debt.

11 (b) Such awards shall be made annually to eligible applicants who,  
12 prior to accepting such awards, engaged in twelve months of service as  
13 an employee of a small business registered to do business in the state  
14 of New York and, have an annual salary of fifty thousand dollars or  
15 less. Such awards shall not exceed an amount of twelve thousand five  
16 hundred dollars and shall be made to such applicants, pursuant to the  
17 following schedule:

18 (i) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the first year;  
19 (ii) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the second year;  
20 (iii) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the third year;  
21 (iv) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the fourth year;  
22 (v) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the fifth year;  
23 (vi) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the sixth year;  
24 (vii) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the seventh  
25 year;

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

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1 (viii) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the eighth  
2 year;

3 (ix) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the ninth year;  
4 and

5 (x) ten percent to be awarded upon the completion of the tenth year.

6 (c) Recipients of such awards shall be eligible to apply for other  
7 awards established under this chapter.

8 3. Duration. Such awards shall be made annually, for no more than ten  
9 years, to applicants who remain eligible under this section and who are  
10 certified as such by the corporation.

11 4. Amount. The corporation shall grant such awards within the amounts  
12 appropriated for such purpose and based on the availability of funds in  
13 an amount not to exceed the total cost of the completion of such degree  
14 programs. Cost of completion of such degrees shall include: tuition at  
15 an institution of higher education approved or registered by the regents  
16 and other required or reasonable student fees.

17 5. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "small business"  
18 shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in section one  
19 hundred thirty-one of the economic development law.

20 6. Rules and regulations. Awards shall be made on a competitive basis  
21 as promulgated by the corporation for such purposes to applicants who  
22 meet the eligibility criteria. Such rules and regulations shall include  
23 provisions for the consideration of applicants who are economically  
24 disadvantaged.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding  
26 the date upon which it shall have become a law.