

STATE OF NEW YORK

1974

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, McMAHON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing an early intervention loan repayment program

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 2559-c to read as follows:

3 § 2559-c. Early intervention loan repayment program. 1. There is
4 hereby established within the department an early intervention loan
5 repayment program.

6 2. (a) Within sixty days of the effective date of this section, the
7 department shall develop a fund and make monies available, subject to
8 appropriations, for purposes of loan repayment awards for early inter-
9 vention providers as defined by the department, in accordance with the
10 provisions of this section. Such funding shall be awarded regionally
11 with fifty percent of the funds made available to providers with a prin-
12 cipal residence within the city of New York and the remaining fifty
13 percent made available to providers with a principal residence outside
14 the city of New York. Such funds shall be distributed in a manner to be
15 determined by the commissioner without a competitive bid or request for
16 proposals.

17 (b) Loan repayment awards under this section shall be awarded to repay
18 student loans for early intervention providers who work in areas deter-
19 mined to be underserved and who agree to serve families, in-person, in
20 underserved areas for a period of three consecutive years. "Underserved
21 areas" shall be located in New York state and shall include, but not be
22 limited to medically underserved populations, medically underserved
23 areas, health care provider shortage areas, and other areas and popu-
24 lations where there is a shortage of early intervention providers as
25 determined by the commissioner.

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

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1 (c) Loan repayment awards made under this section shall not exceed the
2 total qualifying outstanding student loan debt amount of the early
3 intervention provider. Qualifying student loans under this section shall
4 include loans for tuition and other related education expenses, made by
5 or guaranteed by the federal or state government, or made by a lending
6 or educational institution approved under title IV of the federal higher
7 education act. Loan repayment awards shall only be used to repay such
8 outstanding debt.

9 (d) Early intervention providers shall be eligible for loan repayment
10 awards to be determined by the commissioner, over a three-year period
11 and distributed as follows: thirty percent of the total award for the
12 first year, thirty percent for the second year, and any unpaid balance
13 of the total awards not to exceed the maximum award amount for the third
14 year.

15 (e) In the event the three-year commitment as provided by paragraph
16 (b) of this subdivision is not fulfilled, the recipient shall be respon-
17 sible for repayment of amounts paid by the department, which shall be
18 calculated in accordance with a formula set forth in subdivision (b) of
19 section two-hundred fifty-four-o of title forty-two of the United States
20 code, as amended, or any regulations made thereunder.

21 3. The commissioner may postpone, change or waive the service obli-
22 gation and repayment amounts set forth in paragraphs (b) and (e) of
23 subdivision two of this section in individual circumstances where there
24 is compelling need or hardship.

25 4. Within ninety days following the effective date of this section,
26 the department shall establish a working group consisting of members
27 appointed from professional organizations representing early inter-
28 vention providers ("the working group"). The working group, no later
29 than September thirtieth, two thousand twenty-seven shall make recommen-
30 dations, to the department, on the development and implementation of a
31 streamlined application process for the early intervention loan repay-
32 ment program set forth under this section.

33 5. In the event there are undistributed funds available following the
34 three-year distribution period as provided under subdivision two of this
35 section, such funds shall be reallocated and distributed in current or
36 subsequent distribution periods in a manner determined by the commis-
37 sioner for the purpose set forth under this section.

38 § 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2026.