By Senator Posey

24-03314-08   20082454__

1   A bill to be entitled
2   An act relating to the Critical Teacher Shortage Student
3   Loan Forgiveness Program; amending s. 1009.59, F.S.;
4   revising criteria for applying for loan forgiveness to
5   require an applicant to have taught for a full school year
6   in a subject area in which a critical teacher shortage
7   exists; providing an effective date.
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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11   Section 1. Section 1009.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to
12   read:
13   1009.59 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness
14   Program.--
15   (1) The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness
16   Program is established to encourage qualified persons ~~personnel~~
17   to seek employment in subject areas in which critical teacher
18   shortages exist, as identified annually by the State Board of
19   Education. The primary function of the program is to make
20   repayments toward student loans received ~~by students~~ from federal
21   programs or commercial lending institutions for the support of
22   postsecondary education study. ~~Repayments are intended to be made~~
23   ~~to qualified applicants who begin teaching for the first time in~~
24   ~~designated subject areas, and who apply during their first year~~
25   ~~of teaching as certified teachers in these subject areas.~~
26   (2) To qualify for loan repayments an applicant must:
27   (a) Be teaching in a designated critical teacher shortage
28   area for the first time and have a valid temporary Florida
29   educator's certificate or license that indicates certification or

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30   licensure in that subject area and for the academic year for

31   which repayment is requested; and

32   (b) Have taught a full school year, as provided in s.

33   1003.02(1)(g), in a critical teacher shortage area in a publicly

34   funded school, a developmental research school, or a K-12 private

35   school as defined in s. 1002.01 which is recognized by the

36   Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools.

37   (3)(2) From the funds available, the Department of

38   Education may make loan principal repayments as follows:

39   (a) Up to $2,500 a year for up to 4 years on behalf of

40   selected graduates of state-approved undergraduate postsecondary

41   teacher preparation programs, persons certified to teach pursuant

42   to any applicable teacher certification requirements, or selected

43   teacher preparation graduates from any state participating in the

44   Interstate Agreement on the Qualification of Educational

45   Personnel.

46   (b) Up to $5,000 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of

47   selected graduates of state-approved graduate postsecondary

48   teacher preparation programs, persons with graduate degrees

49   certified to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher

50   certification requirements, or selected teacher preparation

51   graduates from any state participating in the Interstate

52   Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel.

53   (c) All repayments shall be contingent on continued proof

54   of employment in the designated subject areas in this state and

55   shall be made directly to the holder of the loan. The state

56   shall not bear responsibility for the collection of any interest

57   charges or other remaining balance. In the event that designated

58   critical teacher shortage subject areas are changed by the State

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59 Board of Education, a teacher shall continue to be eligible for
60 loan forgiveness as long as he or she continues to teach in the
61 subject area for which the original loan repayment was made and
62 otherwise meets all conditions of eligibility.
63   (4)(3) Students receiving a scholarship loan or a
64 fellowship loan are not eligible to participate in the Critical
65 Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.
66   (5)(4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
67 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to administer for
68 the administration of this program.
69   (6)(5) This section shall be implemented only to the extent
70 that the program is as specifically funded and authorized by law.
71   Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.