

AMENDMENT # 2

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHB 28(FIN)

BY REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE

1 Page 1, lines 10 - 13:

2 Delete "a person who is employed as a full-time certificated teacher in a public school
3 or as a full-time employee of the state, has completed a postsecondary degree or certificate
4 program, and has an outstanding student loan as described in 26 U.S.C. 108(f)(2) incurred by
5 the person for the degree or certificate program"

6 Insert "an eligible person. A person is eligible if the person

7 (1) is employed as either a full-time certificated teacher in a public school or
8 as a full-time health care provider as defined by the commission;

9 (2) has completed at least five years of employment as either a full-time
10 certificated teacher in a public school or as a full-time health care provider in the state; and

11 (3) is not currently the beneficiary of another loan forgiveness or loan
12 repayment program administered by the commission or another entity"

13

14 Page 2, line 1, following "program;":

15 Insert "the application process must include

16 (A) verification of

17 (i) the applicant's outstanding student loan balance;

18 (ii) the applicant's qualified outstanding student load debt, as
19 determined by the commission;

20 (iii) the number of outstanding payments remaining on the
21 applicant's student loans; and

22 (iv) the amount of the applicant's current student loan
23 payments, including information on any federal student loan repayment plan

1 described in 20 U.S.C. 1098e;

2 (B) verification of the applicant's state licensure or certification;

3 (C) verification of the applicant's employment, including the
4 applicant's salary or hourly wage; and

5 (D) obtaining a signed statement of intent from the applicant indicating
6 the applicant's intention to

7 (i) work in a qualifying teaching or health care position in the
8 state for at least three years after acceptance into the program; and

9 (ii) be a resident of the state for at least three years after
10 acceptance into the program;"

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12 Page 2, line 3:

13 Delete "state employees"

14 Insert "health care providers"

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16 Page 2, line 8, following "program.":

17 Insert "The commission shall require that a person repay the amounts disbursed under
18 the program if the commission finds that the person applied grant payments to an ineligible
19 purpose."

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21 Page 2, line 9, following "section":

22 Insert "shall be paid directly to the servicer of the qualifying student loan. A person
23 receiving a grant under this section shall provide documentation of the person's total
24 outstanding student loan debt from all lending institutions and provide instructions for
25 payment to be made to a specific servicer at the time the grant is disbursed. Grants awarded
26 under this section"

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28 Page 2, lines 12 - 13:

29 Delete all material and insert:

30 "(2) for a person employed as a full-time health care provider, upon
31 completion of each year of full-time employment after acceptance into the program."

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Page 2, lines 15 - 20:

Delete "A person with outstanding student loans used to pay for a degree or certificate program located outside the state or at the University of Alaska

(1) totaling \$24,000 or more is eligible to receive a grant of \$8,000 in each year of participation in the program; or

(2) totaling less than \$24,000 is eligible to receive a grant of one-third of the balance of the outstanding student loans in each year of participation in the program."

Insert "The commission may award different amounts to persons receiving grants under this section based on the degree or certificate the person holds."

Page 2, line 21:

Delete "Up to 125 grants may be awarded under this section each fiscal year."

Page 2, following line 25:

Insert new subsections to read:

"(g) The commission may prioritize applications based on the local needs of the community in which an applicant is employed. When prioritizing applications, the commission may consider

(1) whether the applicant is employed in a rural area, including,

(A) for a teacher,

(i) the availability of qualified teachers in the community where the applicant teaches; and

(ii) the number of local job vacancies for positions similar to the applicant's;

(B) for a health care provider,

(i) the access to health care in the community where the applicant practices;

(ii) the number of local job vacancies for positions similar to the applicant's;

(iii) the timeliness of available health care appointments in the

1 community where the applicant works; and

2 (iv) whether an applicant is employed with an employer who
3 accepts Medicaid;

4 (2) the applicant's monthly student debt as a percentage of the applicant's
5 gross monthly income;

6 (3) the need for teachers or specific types of health care providers in a
7 particular region as determined by state or industry labor data and other available information
8 related to vacancy rates or professions needed most in the region;

9 (4) the workforce needs of schools and health care facilities in the state, with a
10 special emphasis on nurses, counselors, behavioral health professionals, and primary care
11 physicians.

12 (h) If a person receiving a grant fails to complete the required term of service under
13 the program, the commission may find the person ineligible to continue receiving a grant
14 under the program and may award any remaining grant funds to a different eligible applicant.

15 (i) The commission has no obligation to assist a person in obtaining qualifying
16 employment in the event that the person's qualifying employment is terminated. Upon
17 terminating qualifying employment, the commission may award remaining grant funds to
18 another eligible applicant. A person who loses qualifying employment may reapply to the
19 program upon resuming qualifying employment."

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21 Reletter the following subsections accordingly.

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23 Page 3, line 4:

24 Delete "state employee"

25 Insert "health care provider"