

By: Frazier

H.B. No. 2672

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility for student loan repayment assistance under the math and science scholars loan repayment program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 61.9831, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.9831. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of eligible student loans for eligible persons who agree to teach mathematics or science for a specified period in public schools [~~that receive federal funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.)~~].

SECTION 2. Sections 61.9832(a) and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible to receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter, a person must:

(1) apply annually for the loan repayment assistance in the manner prescribed by the board;

(2) be a United States citizen;

(3) have completed an undergraduate or graduate program in mathematics or science;

(4) have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent;

1 (5) be:

2 (A) certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to
3 teach mathematics or science in a public school in this state; or

4 (B) teaching under a probationary teaching
5 certificate;

6 (6) have been employed for at least one year as a
7 teacher teaching mathematics or science at a public school [~~that~~
8 ~~receives funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education~~
9 ~~Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.)~~];

10 (7) not be in default on any other education loan;

11 (8) not receive any other state or federal loan
12 repayment assistance, including a Teacher Education Assistance for
13 College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant or teacher loan
14 forgiveness;

15 (9) enter into an agreement with the board under
16 Subsection (c); and

17 (10) comply with any other requirement adopted by the
18 board under this subchapter.

19 (c) To receive loan repayment assistance under this
20 subchapter, a person must enter into an agreement with the board
21 that includes the following provisions:

22 (1) the person will accept an offer of full-time
23 employment to teach mathematics or science, as applicable based on
24 the person's certification, in a public school [~~that receives~~
25 ~~funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of~~
26 ~~1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.)~~];

27 (2) the person will complete four consecutive years of

1 employment in any public school as a full-time classroom teacher
2 [~~in a school described by Subdivision (1)~~] whose primary duty is to
3 teach mathematics or science, as applicable, based on the person's
4 certification;

5 (3) beginning with the school year immediately
6 following the last of the four consecutive school years described
7 by Subdivision (2), the person will complete an additional number
8 of consecutive school years teaching in any public school in this
9 state, as prescribed by board rule; and

10 (4) the person acknowledges the conditional nature of
11 the loan repayment assistance.

12 SECTION 3. Section 61.9839(a), Education Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 (a) Subject to Sections 61.9833(b) and 61.9838(c), an [An]
15 eligible person may continue to receive the same amount of loan
16 repayment assistance received during the first four consecutive
17 years of teaching service required under Section 61.9832(c)(2) if
18 the person continues to teach in a public school in accordance with
19 board rules for the prescribed number of consecutive school years
20 occurring immediately after those [~~that receives funding under~~
21 ~~Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.~~
22 ~~Section 6301 et seq.), after the]~~ first four years [~~of teaching~~
23 ~~service required under Section 61.9832(c)(2)]~~.

24 SECTION 4. Section 61.9839(b), Education Code, is repealed.

25 SECTION 5. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
26 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
27 shall adopt rules necessary to administer Sections 61.9831,

1 61.9832, and 61.9839, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

2 (b) Sections 61.9831, 61.9832, and 61.9839, Education Code,
3 as amended by this Act, apply only to a loan repayment assistance
4 agreement entered into under Subchapter KK, Chapter 61, Education
5 Code, on or after the effective date of this Act. A loan repayment
6 assistance agreement entered into before the effective date of this
7 Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date,
8 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.