

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 2977

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2977:

By: Jones of Dallas

C.S.H.B. No. 2977

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to providing education loan repayment assistance to
3 encourage certain individuals to pursue careers in the faculty or
4 administration of institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding
7 Subchapter F to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER F. DOCTORAL INCENTIVE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

9 Sec. 56.091. ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The Texas
10 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall establish and administer
11 the doctoral incentive loan repayment program as provided by this
12 subchapter and shall adopt rules as necessary to administer the
13 program.

14 (b) The purpose of the program is to provide education loan
15 repayment assistance to individuals from groups that are
16 underrepresented among the faculty and administration of public and
17 independent institutions of higher education in this state to
18 increase the number of individuals from those underrepresented
19 groups among the faculty and administration of public and
20 independent institutions of higher education in this state.

21 (c) For purposes of this subchapter, an individual is from a
22 group that is underrepresented among the faculty and administration
23 of public and independent institutions of higher education in this
24 state if the individual satisfies at least two of the following

1 criteria:

2 (1) the individual was from a low socioeconomic
3 background while pursuing the individual's undergraduate
4 education;

5 (2) the individual attended high school in an area
6 with a high school dropout rate significantly greater than the
7 state average; or

8 (3) when the individual graduated from high school the
9 individual resided in an area from which a disproportionately low
10 number of high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary
11 educational institutions.

12 Sec. 56.092. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible for loan
13 repayment assistance under the program, an individual must:

14 (1) enter into an agreement with the coordinating
15 board to pursue full-time employment as a member of the faculty or
16 administration of a public or independent institution of higher
17 education in this state;

18 (2) be a Texas resident;

19 (3) be from a group that is underrepresented among the
20 faculty and administration of public and independent institutions
21 of higher education in this state; and

22 (4) comply with any other requirements adopted by the
23 coordinating board for the effective administration of the program.

24 Sec. 56.093. ELIGIBLE LOANS. The coordinating board may
25 provide repayment assistance under the program for the repayment of
26 any education loan received by an eligible individual through any
27 lender.

1 Sec. 56.094. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. (a) The
2 coordinating board may provide assistance in the repayment of an
3 eligible loan to an eligible individual in the amounts and under the
4 terms the coordinating board considers appropriate to further the
5 purposes of the program and the best interests of this state.

6 (b) An individual may receive loan repayment assistance
7 under the program in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.

8 Sec. 56.095. FUNDING; LIMITATION ON FUNDING. (a) The
9 program may be funded only from a source provided by this section.
10 The total amount of loan repayment assistance paid under the
11 program may not exceed the amount of money available for the program
12 under this section.

13 (b) Each institution of higher education shall set aside a
14 portion of the tuition collected from each student enrolled in a
15 doctoral degree program, other than a law or health professional
16 degree program, equal to \$2 for each semester credit hour for which
17 the student is enrolled. The institution shall deliver the money
18 set aside to the coordinating board in the manner and at the time
19 prescribed by the coordinating board. The coordinating board shall
20 transfer the money to the comptroller to be maintained in the state
21 treasury for the sole purpose of providing loan forgiveness under
22 this subchapter and paying the costs of administering this
23 subchapter. The money may be used only for those purposes.

24 (c) The coordinating board may solicit and accept gifts and
25 grants from any public or private source for the purposes of the
26 program.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

5 SECTION 3. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
6 Board shall award loan repayments under the doctoral incentive loan
7 repayment program established under Subchapter F, Chapter 56,
8 Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2004 fall
9 semester.

10 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
11 adopt the initial rules for awarding loans under the doctoral
12 incentive loan repayment program established under Subchapter F,
13 Chapter 56, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as
14 practicable after the effective date of this Act. The coordinating
15 board may adopt those initial rules in the manner provided by law
16 for emergency rules.