

1-1 By: Seliger, West S.B. No. 686  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 23, 2015; February 25, 2015,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
 1-4 April 7, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 1; April 7, 2015,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Seliger	X			
1-9 West	X			
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Burton		X		
1-12 Menéndez	X			
1-13 Perry	X			
1-14 Watson	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 686 By: Seliger

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program.  
 1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-21 SECTION 1. Section 61.9831, Education Code, is amended to  
 1-22 read as follows:  
 1-23 Sec. 61.9831. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The  
 1-24 board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board  
 1-25 rules, assistance in the repayment of eligible student loans for  
 1-26 eligible persons who agree to teach mathematics or science for a  
 1-27 specified period in schools [~~school districts~~] that receive federal  
 1-28 funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
 1-29 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.).  
 1-30 SECTION 2. Sections 61.9832(a) and (c), Education Code, are  
 1-31 amended to read as follows:  
 1-32 (a) To be eligible to receive loan repayment assistance  
 1-33 under this subchapter, a person must:  
 1-34 (1) apply annually for the loan repayment assistance  
 1-35 in the manner prescribed by the board;  
 1-36 (2) be a United States citizen;  
 1-37 (3) have completed an undergraduate or graduate  
 1-38 program in mathematics or science;  
 1-39 (4) have a cumulative grade point average of at least  
 1-40 3.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent;  
 1-41 (5) be:  
 1-42 (A) certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to  
 1-43 teach mathematics or science in a public school in this state; or  
 1-44 (B) teaching under a probationary teaching  
 1-45 certificate [~~be enrolled in an educator preparation program to~~  
 1-46 ~~obtain that certification that is accredited by the State Board for~~  
 1-47 ~~Educator Certification and is provided by an institution of higher~~  
 1-48 ~~education or by a private or independent institution of higher~~  
 1-49 ~~education in this state];~~  
 1-50 (6) have been employed for at least one year as a  
 1-51 teacher teaching mathematics or science at a public school [~~located~~  
 1-52 ~~in a school district~~] that receives funding under Title I,  
 1-53 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section  
 1-54 6301 et seq.);  
 1-55 (7) not be in default on any other education loan;  
 1-56 (8) not receive any other state or federal loan  
 1-57 repayment assistance, including a Teacher Education Assistance for  
 1-58 College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant or teacher loan  
 1-59 forgiveness;  
 1-60 (9) enter into an agreement with the board under

2-1 Subsection (c); and  
2-2 (10) comply with any other requirement adopted by the  
2-3 board under this subchapter.

2-4 (c) To receive loan repayment assistance under this  
2-5 subchapter, a person must enter into an agreement with the board  
2-6 that includes the following provisions:

2-7 (1) the person will accept an offer of full-time  
2-8 employment to teach mathematics or science, as applicable based on  
2-9 the person's certification, in a public school [~~located in a school~~  
2-10 ~~district~~] that receives funding under Title I, Elementary and  
2-11 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.);

2-12 (2) the person will complete four consecutive years of  
2-13 employment as a full-time classroom teacher in a school described  
2-14 by Subdivision (1) whose primary duty is to teach mathematics or  
2-15 science, as applicable, based on the person's certification;

2-16 (3) beginning with the school year immediately  
2-17 following the last of the four consecutive school years described  
2-18 by Subdivision (2), the person will complete four additional  
2-19 consecutive school years teaching in any public school in this  
2-20 state; and

2-21 (4) the person acknowledges the conditional nature of  
2-22 the loan repayment assistance.

2-23 SECTION 3. Section 61.9837(b), Education Code, is amended  
2-24 to read as follows:

2-25 (b) The fund is a dedicated account in the general revenue  
2-26 fund and consists of:

2-27 (1) gifts, grants, and other donations received for  
2-28 the fund; ~~and~~

2-29 (2) any amounts appropriated by the legislature for  
2-30 the fund; and

2-31 (3) interest and other earnings from the investment of  
2-32 the fund.

2-33 SECTION 4. Sections 61.9839(a) and (b), Education Code, are  
2-34 amended to read as follows:

2-35 (a) An eligible person may continue to receive loan  
2-36 repayment assistance if the person continues to teach in a public  
2-37 school that receives funding under Title I, Elementary and  
2-38 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.),  
2-39 [described by Section 61.9832(a)(7)] after the first four years of  
2-40 teaching service required [for eligibility] under Section  
2-41 61.9832(c)(2).

2-42 (b) If an eligible person transfers to a public school  
2-43 [~~located in a school district~~] that does not receive funding under  
2-44 Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
2-45 Section 6301 et seq.), after the first four years required for  
2-46 eligibility under Section 61.9832(c)(2), the person may not receive  
2-47 more than 75 percent of the maximum annual amount of the loan  
2-48 repayment assistance as determined by the board.

2-49 SECTION 5. Section 61.9837(f), Education Code, is repealed.

2-50 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
2-51 a loan repayment assistance agreement entered into under Subchapter  
2-52 II, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by Chapter 1229 (S.B.  
2-53 1720), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, on or  
2-54 after the effective date of this Act. A loan repayment assistance  
2-55 agreement entered into before the effective date of this Act is  
2-56 governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and the  
2-57 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2-58 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-59 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-60 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-61 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-62 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

2-63 \* \* \* \* \*