

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1757

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to 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 61.9832, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) 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 [~~3.5~~] on a four-point scale or the equivalent;

(5) be:

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

(B) teaching under a probationary teaching certificate;

(6) have been employed for at least one year as a teacher teaching mathematics or science at a public school that receives funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.);

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

3 (8) not receive any other state or federal loan
4 repayment assistance, including a Teacher Education Assistance for
5 College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant or teacher loan
6 forgiveness;

7 (9) enter into an agreement with the board under
8 Subsection (c); and

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

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

14 (1) the person will accept an offer of full-time
15 employment to teach mathematics or science, as applicable based on
16 the person's certification, in a public school that receives
17 funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
18 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.);

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

23 (3) beginning with the school year immediately
24 following the last of the four consecutive school years described
25 by Subdivision (2), the person will complete an [~~four~~] additional
26 number of consecutive school years teaching in any public school in
27 this state, as prescribed by board rule; and

1 (4) the person acknowledges the conditional nature of
2 the loan repayment assistance.

3 (c-1) The rules adopted under Subsection (c)(3) may not
4 require a person to complete more than four additional consecutive
5 school years of teaching as described by that subdivision.

6 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
7 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
8 shall adopt rules necessary to administer Section 61.9832,
9 Education Code, as amended by this Act.

10 (b) Section 61.9832, Education Code, as amended by this Act,
11 applies only to a loan repayment assistance agreement entered into
12 under Subchapter KK, Chapter 61, Education Code, on or after the
13 effective date of this Act. A loan repayment assistance agreement
14 entered into before the effective date of this Act is governed by
15 the law in effect immediately before that date, and the former law
16 is continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.