

By: Howard

H.B. No. 3030

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. REPAYMENT OF EDUCATION LOANS FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES

Sec. 61.7305. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "state employee" means an individual, other than a state officer as defined by Section 572.002, Government Code, who is employed by:

(1) a state agency;

(2) the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, a court of appeals, or the Texas Judicial Council; or

(3) either house of the legislature or a legislative agency, council, or committee, including the Legislative Budget Board, the Texas Legislative Council, the State Auditor's Office, and the Legislative Reference Library.

Sec. 61.731. 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 state employees who apply and qualify for the assistance.

Sec. 61.732. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan

1 repayment assistance under this subchapter, a person must:

2 (1) apply to the board in a manner prescribed by the  
3 board;

4 (2) have an income at or below 80 percent of the  
5 statewide median family income, adjusted for family size, that is  
6 established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
7 Development; and

8 (3) at the time of application for repayment  
9 assistance have been employed for at least five years as, and be  
10 currently employed as, a state employee.

11 Sec. 61.733. LIMITATIONS. A state employee may receive  
12 loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for not more than  
13 five years.

14 Sec. 61.734. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide  
15 loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for the repayment  
16 of any student loan for education at an institution of higher  
17 education, a private or independent institution of higher  
18 education, or a public or private out-of-state institution of  
19 higher education accredited by a recognized accrediting agency,  
20 including loans for undergraduate education, received by an  
21 eligible person through any lender.

22 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a  
23 student loan that is in default at the time of the person's  
24 application.

25 (c) In each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt  
26 to allocate all money appropriated to the board for the purpose of  
27 providing loan repayment assistance under this subchapter.

1       Sec. 61.735. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any  
2 repayment under this subchapter in a lump sum payable:

3               (1) to both the lender or other holder of the loan and  
4 the state employee; or

5               (2) directly to the lender or other holder of the loan  
6 on the state employee's behalf.

7       (b) A repayment under this subchapter may be applied to any  
8 amount due in connection with the loan.

9       Sec. 61.736. AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. (a) A state  
10 employee may receive loan repayment assistance under this  
11 subchapter in an amount determined by the board.

12       (b) The total amount of loan repayment assistance awarded  
13 under this subchapter may not exceed the sum of:

14               (1) the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by  
15 the board for the repayment assistance;

16               (2) legislative appropriations for the repayment  
17 assistance; and

18               (3) other money available to the board for the  
19 repayment assistance.

20       Sec. 61.737. RULES; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The board shall  
21 adopt rules necessary to administer this subchapter.

22       (b) The board shall distribute to each institution of higher  
23 education or private or independent institution of higher education  
24 and to any appropriate state agency and professional association  
25 copies of the rules adopted under this section and other pertinent  
26 information relating to this subchapter.

27       (c) The board shall administer the program under this

1 subchapter in a manner that maximizes any matching funds available  
2 through other sources.

3 (d) A reasonable amount, not to exceed three percent, of any  
4 money appropriated for purposes of this subchapter may be used to  
5 pay the costs of administering this subchapter.

6 Sec. 61.738. SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONEY. The  
7 board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or  
8 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

9 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is  
10 required to provide assistance in the repayment of eligible student  
11 loans for eligible state employees as provided by this Act only if  
12 the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose.  
13 If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
14 purpose, the board may, but is not required to, provide assistance  
15 in the repayment of eligible student loans for eligible state  
16 employees as provided by this Act using other appropriations  
17 available for that purpose.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.