

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

Modify the Minority Teacher Loan Program

Motion:

Move to modify the minority teacher loan program for loans made after the bill's effective date.

Move to specify that, to be eligible to receive a loan through the program, a student would have to meet the following criteria: (a) be a Wisconsin resident enrolled at least half-time as a sophomore, junior, or senior in institution of higher education approved under 20 USC 1001 [a] and [b] located in this state; (b) be enrolled in a program leading to a teacher's license in a discipline identified as a teacher shortage area for the state of Wisconsin by the U.S. Department of Education; (c) be enrolled in a program that includes a student teaching component located at a public or private elementary or secondary school located in the City of Milwaukee; and (d) have a grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4-point scale or the equivalent. Students who meet these criteria would be eligible for loans of up to \$10,000 annually for up to three years with the maximum amount of loans that a student could receive through the program being \$30,000.

Move to specify that loan recipients would have the principal and interest of their loans forgiven at a rate of 25% per year for each year that the recipient: (a) is employed as a full-time teacher in their high demand area by a public or private elementary or secondary school located in the City of Milwaukee; and (b) receives a rating of proficient or distinguished on the educator effectiveness system or the equivalent in a school that does not use the educator effectiveness system. Specify that if a borrower's employment does not meet the criteria for forgiveness, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

Note:

The minority teacher loan program provides loans of up to \$2,500 per year with a maximum of \$5,000 to resident minority undergraduate students who: (1) are enrolled at least half-time at a UW institution or private, nonprofit postsecondary institution in Wisconsin; (2) are registered as juniors or seniors, or hold a bachelor's degree and are registered as special students; (3) are enrolled in programs leading to teacher licensure and are not currently licensed; (4) meet academic criteria specified by HEAB; and (5) agree to teach in a school district located in the state in which minority students constitute at least 29% of total enrollment or in a school district participating in the interdistrict pupil transfer (Chapter 220) program. The loan principal and interest is forgiven at a rate of 25% for each year the recipient teaches in an eligible school district. If the student does not

teach in an eligible district, the loan, which bears a 5% interest rate, must be repaid with the funds deposited in the general fund. For 2013-14, a total of \$159,100 was expended for 68 students, averaging \$2,340 per student.

For the purpose of the minority teacher loan program, "minority student" is defined as a student who is African American, Native America, Hispanic, or from Cambodia, Laos, or Vietnam and admitted to the U.S. after December 31, 1975.

Disciplines currently identified as teacher shortage areas for the state of Wisconsin by the U.S. Department of Education are as follows: (a) English as a second language/bilingual; (b) sciences; (c) library media; (d) mathematics; (e) music; (f) reading; (g) foreign languages; (h) cognitive disabilities; (i) cross categorical; (j) deaf and hard of hearing; (k) early childhood -- special education; (L) emotional and behavioral disorders; (m) learning disabilities; (n) school speech and language disabilities; (o) visual disabilities; (p) business education; (q) family and consumer education; and (r) technology education.

[Change to Bill: \$0]