



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 21

February Session, 2014

Senate Bill No. 18

Senate, March 18, 2014

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER
EDUCATOR INCENTIVE PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-19j of the general statutes is repealed the
2 following substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (a) There is established an English language learner educator [loan
4 reimbursement] incentive program to be administered by the Office of
5 Higher Education. [within available appropriations.]

6 [(b) Up to twenty persons may be eligible for reimbursement of
7 federal or state educational loans up to a maximum of five thousand
8 dollars per person per year for up to five years, provided each such
9 person, on or after May 1, 2012, (1) (A) graduates from a teacher
10 preparation program offered by an institution of higher education in
11 this state and completes teacher certification requirements pursuant to
12 section 10-145b, or (B) holds a teaching certificate and completes a

13 program in this state pursuant to which such person receives an
14 endorsement in teaching English to speakers of other languages or
15 bilingual education, (2) if such person has not received an
16 endorsement in teaching English to speakers of other languages or
17 bilingual education, receives such an endorsement, and (3) is
18 employed in a teaching position that requires an endorsement in
19 teaching English to speakers of other languages or bilingual education
20 at a public school in this state and commits, in writing, to remain
21 employed in such a position at a public school in this state for at least
22 five years following such person's receipt of such an endorsement. Any
23 such person eligible for reimbursement under this section who does
24 not remain employed in a teaching position that requires an
25 endorsement in teaching English to speakers of other languages or
26 bilingual education at a public school in this state for at least five years
27 after receiving such an endorsement shall repay the cost to the state of
28 any such reimbursement in accordance with subsection (c) of this
29 section.

30 (c) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education shall
31 treat reimbursement of educational loans pursuant to this section as
32 loans for any person who does not remain employed for at least five
33 years in a teaching position that requires an endorsement in teaching
34 English to speakers of other languages or bilingual education at a
35 public school in this state. The executive director shall determine the
36 manner of the repayment of such reimbursement by persons who do
37 not remain employed in such a position at a public school in this state
38 for five years, provided, for each year of such five-year period that the
39 person does not remain employed in such a position, the person shall
40 owe to the state not less than twenty per cent of the total amount of
41 such reimbursement.

42 (d) The Office of Higher Education may adopt regulations, in
43 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the
44 provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section.]

45 (b) Within available appropriations, such program shall provide a

46 grant to any student who (1) is in the last two years of a teacher
 47 preparation program leading to professional certification at any four-
 48 year institution of higher education in this state, and (2) will pursue an
 49 endorsement in bilingual education or teaching English to speakers of
 50 other languages. No student shall receive a grant under such program
 51 for more than two years. Maximum grants shall not exceed five
 52 thousand dollars per year.

53 (c) A student who receives a grant under subsection (b) of this
 54 section and who teaches in a public school in this state under such
 55 bilingual education or teaching English to speakers of other languages
 56 endorsement upon graduation from the teacher education program
 57 shall be eligible for reimbursement of federal or state educational loans
 58 up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars per year for
 59 up to four years of teaching service.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	10a-19j

HED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill redesigns an existing teachers' loan reimbursement program administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE) as an incentive grant and loan reimbursement program for college and university students who are studying to be teachers. The current loan reimbursement program has never been programmatically operable, although it has been funded since FY 12.

The bill allows eligible students to receive a grant of \$5,000 per year, for up to two years of schooling, and upon graduation, students become eligible for a loan reimbursement of \$2,500 per year for up to four years of teaching. The FY 14 and FY 15 Biennial Budget contains \$95,000 for this program. Since the program must be administered within available appropriations, up to 19 students would be eligible for \$5,000 grants in FY 15.

If a new co-hort of 10 students were to be added to the program in FY 16, the Office of Higher Education would require an additional \$95,000.

The Out Years

For each new co-hort of students, the loan reimbursement program would require additional funding. In addition to paying the \$5,000 grants, OHE is responsible for paying the \$2,500 loan reimbursement.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 18*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER EDUCATOR INCENTIVE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill redesigns an existing teachers' loan reimbursement program, administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE), as an incentive grant and loan reimbursement program for college and university students studying to be teachers. Both the existing and proposed programs target those seeking credentials as bilingual education teachers or teachers of English to speakers of other languages. Both are administered within available appropriations. The bill:

1. targets the program to undergraduates enrolled in teacher preparation programs rather than certified teachers,
2. removes the cap on the number of participants,
3. revises the eligibility requirements,
4. revises how funds are distributed,
5. reduces the maximum amount of funds a recipient may receive by \$5,000 (from \$25,000 to \$20,000), and
6. removes employment commitment requirements, and
7. changes the name of the program from the "English language learner educator loan reimbursement program" to the "English language learner educator incentive program."

It also eliminates OHE's authority to adopt implementing regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

COMPARISON OF PROGRAMS

Table 1 compares current law's program with the bill's redesigned program.

Table 1: Comparison of Programs

	<i>English language learner educator loan reimbursement program (current law)</i>	<i>English language learner educator incentive program (SB 18)</i>
Number and class of eligible participants	Up to 20 teachers	Unlimited number of undergraduate students
Eligibility requirements	<p>Loan reimbursement. On or after May 1, 2012, a person must do the following to receive a loan reimbursement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) graduate from a higher education teacher preparation program and complete state teaching certification requirements or (b) hold a teaching certificate and complete an in-state program to obtain endorsement in bilingual education or the teaching of English to speakers of other languages, obtain such an endorsement if he or she has not already done so, be employed by Connecticut public schools in a position that requires such an endorsement, and make a written commitment to remain employed in such a position for at least five years. 	<p>Grants. On or after July 1, 2014, a person must do the following to receive a grant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be enrolled at any four-year Connecticut college or university in the final two years of a teacher preparation program that leads to teacher certification and pursue an endorsement in bilingual education or the teaching of English to speakers of other languages. <p>Loan reimbursement. To receive loan reimbursement upon graduation from such a program, a person must teach in a Connecticut public school in position that requires that endorsement. Employment commitment for a specified number of years is not required, but the number of annual loan reimbursements is capped at four.</p>
Maximum potential amount available	\$25,000 (five years of teaching at \$5,000 per year in loan reimbursement)	\$20,000 (two years as an undergraduate at \$5,000 per year in grants, plus four years of teaching at \$2,500 per year in loan reimbursement)
Employment commitment	Recipients must fulfill a five-year teaching commitment or repay at least 20% of the reimbursement for each unmet year of employment in a manner determined by the OHE executive director.	Recipients are not required to make an employment commitment to participate.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/04/2014)