



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2017

LCO No. 6947



Offered by:

REP. HADDAD, 54th Dist.
REP. STANESKI, 119th Dist.
REP. ZIOGAS, 79th Dist.
REP. CHEESEMAN, 37th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7212

File No. 459

Cal. No. 320

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) For purposes of this
4 section:

5 (1) "Public service employer" means an organization, agency or
6 entity that is a public service organization, including, but not limited
7 to, each local and regional board of education. "Public service
8 employer" does not include a federal or tribal nation government
9 organization, agency or entity, or a tribal nation institution of higher
10 education;

11 (2) "Employment certification form" means the form used by the
12 United States Department of Education to certify an individual's

13 employment at a public service organization for the purposes of the
14 Public Service Loan Forgiveness program;

15 (3) "Public Service Loan Forgiveness program" means the loan
16 forgiveness program as administered under 34 CFR 685.219, as
17 amended from time to time;

18 (4) "Public service organization" means a public service organization
19 as defined in 34 CFR 685.219, as amended from time to time; and

20 (5) "Teacher Loan Forgiveness program" means a loan forgiveness
21 program administered under 34 CFR 685.217, as amended from time to
22 time.

23 (b) The Office of Higher Education shall create and distribute
24 informational materials that increase awareness of the Public Service
25 Loan Forgiveness program and Teacher Loan Forgiveness program to
26 public service employers. Such informational materials shall include,
27 but need not be limited to, the following:

28 (1) A standardized letter to (A) notify employees of the eligibility
29 and participation requirements of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness
30 program or Teacher Loan Forgiveness program, and (B) recommend
31 that employees contact a student loan servicer for additional
32 information regarding such programs;

33 (2) A detailed fact sheet describing the Public Service Loan
34 Forgiveness program or Teacher Loan Forgiveness program, and
35 containing the telephone number and electronic mail address for the
36 Office of Higher Education, which an employee may use to report any
37 alleged violations of the provisions of subsection (e) of this section; and

38 (3) A document containing frequently asked questions concerning
39 the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program or Teacher Loan
40 Forgiveness program and the answers to such questions.

41 (c) The Office of Higher Education may distribute any document
42 published by a federal agency that meets the requirements of

43 informational materials set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

44 (d) The Office of Higher Education shall make the informational
45 materials described in subsection (b) or (c) of this section available on
46 the Office of Higher Education's Internet web site. Each biennium the
47 Office of Higher Education shall verify the accuracy of the
48 informational materials and update any informational materials that
49 are incorrect or obsolete.

50 (e) A public service employer that employs more than ten full-time
51 employees shall:

52 (1) Provide new employees with the informational materials
53 described in subsection (b) or (c) of this section two weeks after the
54 employee's start date by mail, electronic mail or in-person;

55 (2) Provide its employees with a copy of the employment
56 certification form upon request of an employee; and

57 (3) Conspicuously display the fact sheet, described in subdivision
58 (2) of subsection (b) of this section, on its premises.

59 (f) (1) All complaints received by the Office of Higher Education
60 regarding any alleged violations of the provisions of subsection (e) of
61 this section by a public service employer shall be (A) investigated not
62 later than thirty days after the complaint was made, and (B) made
63 publically available. The Office of Higher Education shall order
64 corrective actions to a public service employer that has violated this
65 section. A public service employer may contest such corrective actions
66 ordered under this subdivision not later than fifteen days after its
67 issuance.

68 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority
69 of the Attorney General to bring an action in a court of competent
70 jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this section."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section