



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 937

LCO No. 3910



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For the fiscal year ending
2 June 30, 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Higher
3 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood, shall,
4 within available appropriations, administer an early childhood
5 educator loan reimbursement grant program to persons who meet the
6 eligibility requirements described in subsection (b) of this section.

7 (b) The program shall provide student loan reimbursement grants to
8 any person (1) who is employed by a child care center, as described in
9 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 19a-77 of the general
10 statutes, that is licensed by the Office of Early Childhood, pursuant to
11 section 19a-80 of the general statutes, (2) whose annual salary at such
12 licensed child care center is less than fifty thousand dollars per year,
13 and (3) holds (A) an associate degree with a concentration in early
14 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is
15 regionally accredited, provided such associate degree program is

16 approved by (i) the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the
17 Office of Higher Education, and (ii) the Office of Early Childhood, or
18 (B) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood
19 education from an institution of higher education that is regionally
20 accredited, provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by
21 (i) the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher
22 Education, and (ii) the Office of Early Childhood. For purposes of this
23 subsection, "concentration in early childhood education" has the same
24 meaning as provided in section 10-16p of the general statutes.

25 (c) Any person who satisfies the eligibility requirements prescribed
26 in subsection (b) of this section shall receive an annual grant for
27 reimbursement of federal or state educational loans (1) in an amount
28 up to ten per cent of such person's federal or state educational loans
29 but that does not exceed five thousand dollars in any year, and (2) for a
30 period not to exceed ten years. A person qualifying under subsection
31 (b) of this section shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made
32 while such person continues to satisfy such eligibility requirements.

33 (d) Persons may apply to the Office of Higher Education for grants
34 under this section at such time and in such manner as the executive
35 director of the Office of Higher Education prescribes.

36 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
37 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
38 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	New section

Statement of Purpose:
To establish a student loan forgiveness program for early childhood educators.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]