



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5327

LCO No. 1801



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN HIGH-DEMAND FIELDS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Economic
2 and Community Development shall study the feasibility of establishing
3 a student loan reimbursement program, as described in subsection (b)
4 of this section, that is administered by the Department of Economic and
5 Community Development through public-private partnerships for
6 private sector employees who (1) work in certain high-demand fields,
7 including, but not limited to, civil engineering, mechanical engineering,
8 plastics engineering, nursing, dermatology, construction management
9 and actuarial science, and (2) commit to maintaining employment in
10 such high-demand field and residing in the state for not less than five
11 years.

12 (b) Any student loan reimbursement program considered by the
13 commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall have the
14 following attributes: (1) Private employers participating in such

15 program shall, upon hiring an eligible employee, contribute one-third
16 of said employee's outstanding student loan balance to a bank account
17 bearing not less than one and one-half per cent interest; (2) the bank
18 account shall be managed by a private bank that will reimburse a
19 participating employee's student loan payments over the course of five
20 years; (3) the private bank shall charge a fee for its management services;
21 (4) the state shall contribute a percentage of a participating employee's
22 state income taxes to the bank account over the course of five years; and
23 (5) if a participating employee ceases to reside in the state, said
24 employee shall repay a portion of the student loan reimbursements
25 received from the program.

26 (c) Not later than January 1, 2021, the commissioner shall submit a
27 report on the commissioner's findings and recommendations to the joint
28 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
29 matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of
30 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To examine the creation of a student loan reimbursement program through public-private partnerships to attract skilled labor to the state and meet the hiring needs of private sector employers in the state.

[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.]