



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Substitute Bill No. 953**

LCO No. 3910



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LEARN, WORK, PAY PROGRAM.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Eligible graduate" means a person who (A) graduates on or after  
3 January 1, 2022, with a bachelor's degree from a public institution of  
4 higher education in the state, (B) is a resident of the state, (C) is  
5 employed by any corporation or organization licensed to operate a  
6 business in the state, and (D) has a student loan on which such person  
7 has paid or will pay not less than the first twelve monthly payments;
- 8 (2) "Student loan" means any loan in repayment status that was  
9 issued by a private or governmental lender to finance attendance at a  
10 public institution of higher education in the state; and
- 11 (3) "Participation year" means a twelve-month period commencing  
12 from the thirteenth month in which a student loan payment is due or  
13 the first full calendar month after an application to participate in the  
14 Learn, Work, Pay Program is approved, whichever is later, and each

15 succeeding twelve-month period thereafter, for ten years or until  
16 withdrawal from the program.

17 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Comptroller shall establish a  
18 Learn, Work, Pay Program for the purpose of providing student loan  
19 reimbursements to eligible graduates. The Comptroller may (1) adopt  
20 rules, procedures and forms necessary to implement such program, or  
21 (2) enter into a contract with a third-party administrator to provide  
22 administrative services for the program. Any such third-party  
23 administrator shall be required under such contract to charge such  
24 third-party administrator's lowest available rate for such services.

25 (c) On or after January 1, 2022, an eligible graduate may apply, in the  
26 form and manner prescribed by the Comptroller, to participate in the  
27 Learn, Work, Pay Program. An eligible graduate shall submit, with an  
28 initial application, proof of (1) graduation with a bachelor's degree from  
29 a public institution of higher education in the state, (2) residency and  
30 employment in the state, and (3) the repayment status of a student loan.  
31 For each participation year, an eligible graduate shall (A) submit  
32 documentation of the amount paid and the amount due on a student  
33 loan during the preceding twelve-month period, (B) submit proof of  
34 continued eligibility under the program, and (C) receive a student loan  
35 reimbursement from the Comptroller in accordance with the payment  
36 schedule provided in subsection (d) of this section, provided such  
37 eligible graduate continues to meet the eligibility requirements of this  
38 section.

39 (d) An eligible graduate who participates in the Learn, Work, Pay  
40 Program shall receive annual student loan reimbursements in an  
41 amount not to exceed ten per cent of the amount paid on a student loan  
42 during the preceding twelve-month period for the first participation  
43 year, twenty per cent of such amount for the second participation year,  
44 thirty per cent of such amount for the third participation year, forty per  
45 cent of such amount for the fourth participation year, fifty per cent of  
46 such amount for the fifth participation year, sixty per cent of such  
47 amount for the sixth participation year, seventy per cent of such amount

48 for the seventh participation year, eighty per cent of such amount for  
49 the eighth participation year, ninety per cent of such amount for the  
50 ninth participation year and one hundred per cent of such amount for  
51 the tenth participation year. For any participation year in which a  
52 program participant ceases to reside or work in the state or no longer  
53 owes student loan payments, such participant shall be deemed to have  
54 withdrawn from the program and be ineligible to receive any  
55 subsequent student loan reimbursements.

56 (e) There is established an account to be known as the "Learn, Work,  
57 Pay account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the  
58 General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to  
59 be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended  
60 by the Comptroller for the purposes of the Learn, Work, Pay Program.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |              |             |
| Section 1   | July 1, 2021 | New section |

**HED**      *Joint Favorable Substitute C/R*      APP