

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1109 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY E. Z. TAYLOR, BARD, ROSS, FLICK, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, M. COHEN, CORRIGAN, COY, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, FAIRCHILD, GEORGE, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, JOSEPHS, KENNEY, LAUGHLIN, McILHATTAN, MELIO, ORIE, PETRARCA, READSHAW, RUBLEY, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCHULER, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STEELMAN, STURLA, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRAVAGLIO, C. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK AND SAINATO, MARCH 21, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MARCH 21, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 17, 1993 (P.L.487, No.73), entitled
2 "An act providing the Early Childhood Education Professional
3 Loan Forgiveness Program for Pennsylvania residents who
4 graduate from institutions of higher education and who apply
5 their educational training to positions in approved child-
6 care facilities in this Commonwealth," further providing for
7 definitions, for the program and for funding.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Sections 2, 3 and 5 of the act of December 17,
11 1993 (P.L.487, No.73), known as the Early Childhood Education
12 Professional Loan Forgiveness Act, are amended to read:

13 Section 2. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
15 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance

1 Agency.

2 "Approved child-care facility." A child day-care center or
3 group day-care home located in this Commonwealth which is
4 subject to and in compliance with regulations issued by the
5 Department of Public Welfare.

6 "Program." The Early Childhood Education Professional Loan
7 Forgiveness Program.

8 "Qualified applicant." A person who meets the following
9 criteria:

10 (1) Has successfully completed an undergraduate program
11 at an accredited college or university.

12 (2) Has a bachelor's degree and has obtained
13 Pennsylvania State Early Childhood Education Certification
14 (nursery through third grade) or an associate's degree in
15 early childhood education or child development.

16 (3) Has borrowed through the agency-administered
17 [Guaranteed Student] Federal Stafford Loan Programs.

18 (4) Is a resident of this Commonwealth.

19 (5) Executes a sworn affidavit, under penalty of
20 perjury, that he does not have a delinquent payment owing to
21 any Commonwealth agency.

22 (6) Receives a salary of less than \$18,500.

23 "Renewal applicant." A qualified applicant who has received,
24 after June 30, 2000, an award under the program in the last
25 fiscal year in which money was appropriated for the program.

26 Section 3. Early Childhood Education Professional Loan
27 Forgiveness Program.

28 Qualified applicants who are selected for the program in
29 accordance with this act shall be eligible for payment by the
30 agency of a portion of the debt incurred by the applicant

1 through the agency-administered [Guaranteed Student] Federal
2 Stafford Loan Programs for the education necessary to
3 successfully complete the specified bachelor's degree or
4 associate's degree programs. For each calendar year that the
5 applicant is a full-time professional in an approved
6 Commonwealth child-care facility, the agency may forgive a
7 proportional part of the applicant's loan so that the loan may
8 be entirely forgiven over four years of full-time employment in
9 an approved child-care facility. For a graduate with a
10 bachelor's or associate's degree in the specified areas, no more
11 than \$2,500 shall be forgiven in any year, and no more than
12 \$10,000 shall be forgiven for any applicant. Payments shall be
13 made in accordance with the procedures established by the
14 agency. A loan forgiveness award shall not be made for a loan
15 that is in default at the time of the application.

16 Section 5. Funding.

17 (a) General rule.--Loan forgiveness awards shall be made to
18 the extent that funds are appropriated by the General Assembly
19 and are sufficient to cover administration of the program.

20 (b) Preference.--After June 30, 2001, preference shall be
21 given to renewal applicants.

22 (c) Lottery.--In the event that funding is insufficient to
23 fully fund administration and all [eligible] qualified
24 applicants, the agency shall utilize a random lottery system for
25 determining which applicants receive loan forgiveness awards.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.