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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 384      Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY DePASQUALE, SAINATO, BELFANTI, BISHOP, BOYD,  
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CARROLL, COHEN, COSTA, CURRY, DeLUCA,  
FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GIBBONS,  
GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HANNA, HARHAI, HORNAMAN, JAMES, KORTZ,  
KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, MANN, MARKOSEK, McCALL, McGEEHAN,  
MELIO, MOYER, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PETRARCA, SAYLOR,  
SCAVELLO, STABACK, SURRA, J. TAYLOR, R. TAYLOR, THOMAS,  
WALKO, WATERS, WHEATLEY, WILLIAMS, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK,  
FEBRUARY 13, 2007

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 13, 2007

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AN ACT

1 Providing limited student loan forgiveness for education  
2 professionals in science and mathematics.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Science and  
7 Mathematics Education Professional Loan Forgiveness Act.

8 Section 2. Findings.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) School districts throughout this Commonwealth have  
11 struggled with a shortage of qualified teachers certified in  
12 mathematics and/or science.

13 (2) Students in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation  
14 have a great need to become proficient in mathematics and

1 science to attain success in the global marketplace.

2 (3) Incentives offered by business and industry often  
3 attract away from the teaching profession talented people  
4 qualified in science and mathematics.

5 (4) The Commonwealth must have a strong pool of  
6 qualified secondary teachers certified in mathematics and/or  
7 science.

8 (5) Providing loan forgiveness to qualified secondary  
9 teachers certified in science and mathematics with a  
10 commitment to having a career in education can help resolve  
11 the shortage of teachers in those areas of study and ensure  
12 the quality of public schools in this Commonwealth.

### 13 Section 3. 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  
18 Agency.

19 "Program." The Science and Mathematics Education  
20 Professional Loan Forgiveness Program.

21 "Qualified applicant." A person who meets the following  
22 criteria:

23 (1) Is employed as a full-time permanent professional  
24 secondary educator in mathematics and/or science.

25 (2) Has borrowed through the Pennsylvania Higher  
26 Education Assistance Agency-administered Guaranteed Student  
27 Loan Programs.

28 (3) Is a resident of this Commonwealth.

29 (4) Executes a sworn affidavit, under penalty of  
30 perjury, that he or she does not have a delinquent payment

1        owing any Commonwealth agency or showing that he or she and  
2        the agency have established a repayment schedule, which he or  
3        she has successfully followed for 12 continuous months.

4            (5) Was hired by a school district in this Commonwealth  
5        on or after the effective date of this act.

6        "School district." Any school district in this Commonwealth.

7        Section 4. The Science and Mathematics Education Professional  
8                            Loan Forgiveness Program.

9        Qualified applicants must work for a school district for at  
10       least one year before applying. They shall be eligible for  
11       forgiveness of the debt incurred through the agency-administered  
12       Guaranteed Student Loan Programs for the education necessary to  
13       successfully complete a bachelor's degree or master's degree or  
14       a doctorate degree in education. For each calendar year that the  
15       applicant is a full-time permanent professional educator in the  
16       school district in science or mathematics, the agency shall  
17       forgive \$2,500 of the applicant's loan up until the time the  
18       loan is fully forgiven. Payments shall be made in accordance  
19       with the procedures established by the agency. If the applicant  
20       does not complete five years as a professional educator with the  
21       school district he or she must repay the loan forgiveness  
22       awarded. A loan forgiveness award shall not be made for a loan  
23       that is in default, although an applicant may qualify once he or  
24       she and the agency reach agreement on a formal repayment  
25       schedule and the applicant has successfully followed that  
26       schedule for 12 continuous months.

27       Section 5. Responsibility of agency.

28       The agency shall administer the program established under  
29       this act and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to  
30       carry out the provisions of this act.

1 Section 6. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.