

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2175 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, ZUG, BISHOP, BOYD, BROWNE, BUNT,
CAPPELLI, COSTA, CURRY, DALEY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DeWEESE,
FABRIZIO, GEORGE, GINGRICH, HARHART, HARRIS, HERSHEY, HORSEY,
KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO,
McILHATTAN, MELIO, MUNDY, PALLONE, PETRARCA, READSHAW,
REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SOLOBAY, STERN, STURLA, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS,
WATSON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK AND CAUSER,
NOVEMBER 18, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 18, 2003

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 defining
7 "qualified applicant"; further providing for Early Childhood
8 Education Professional Loan Forgiveness Program; and making
9 an appropriation.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The definition of "qualified applicant" in
13 section 2 of the act of December 17, 1993 (P.L.487, No.73),
14 known as the Early Childhood Education Professional Loan
15 Forgiveness Act, is amended to read:

16 Section 2. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
18 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 * * *

3 "Qualified applicant." A person who meets the following
4 criteria:

5 (1) Has successfully completed an undergraduate program
6 at an accredited college or university.

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

11 (3) Has borrowed through [the agency-administered
12 Guaranteed Student Loan Programs.] and has a current
13 outstanding balance with the agency-guaranteed Federal
14 Stafford or Consolidated Loan Programs.

15 (4) Is a resident of this Commonwealth.

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

19 (6) Receives a salary of less than [\$18,500] \$21,500.

20 Section 2. Sections 3 and 5 of the act are amended to read:

21 Section 3. Early Childhood Education Professional Loan

22 Forgiveness Program.

23 Qualified applicants who are selected for the program in
24 accordance with this act shall be eligible for payment by the
25 agency of a portion of the debt incurred by the applicant
26 through the [agency-administered Guaranteed Student] agency-
27 guaranteed Federal Stafford or Consolidated Loan Programs for
28 the education necessary to successfully complete the specified
29 bachelor's degree or associate's degree programs. For each
30 calendar year that the applicant is a full-time professional in

1 an approved Commonwealth child-care facility, the agency may
2 forgive a proportional part of the applicant's loan so that the
3 loan may be entirely forgiven over four years of full-time
4 employment in an approved child-care facility. For a graduate
5 with a bachelor's or associate's degree in the specified areas,
6 no more than \$2,500 shall be forgiven in any year, and no more
7 than \$10,000 shall be forgiven for any applicant. Payments shall
8 be made in accordance with the procedures established by the
9 agency. A loan forgiveness award shall not be made for a loan
10 that is in default at the time of the application.

11 Section 5. Funding.

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

15 (b) Lottery.--In the event that funding is insufficient to
16 fully fund administration and all [eligible] qualified
17 applicants, the agency shall utilize a random lottery system for
18 determining which applicants receive loan forgiveness awards.

19 Section 3. The sum of \$1,000,000, or as much thereof as may
20 be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Pennsylvania Higher
21 Education Assistance Agency for the fiscal year July 1, 2004, to
22 June 30, 2005, to carry out the provisions of this act.

23 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, or
24 immediately, whichever is later.