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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1034 Session of 2005

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INTRODUCED BY T. STEVENSON, BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI,  
CAWLEY, GEIST, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, KOTIK, MANN, McILHATTAN,  
ROEBUCK, SHANER, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD, EACHUS, HARHAI, R. MILLER,  
STAIRS, STERN AND O'NEILL, MARCH 21, 2005

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 21, 2005

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the School Leadership Recruitment Loan Forgiveness  
2 Program for certain Commonwealth residents pursuing graduate  
3 study for school administration.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the School  
8 Leadership Recruitment Loan Forgiveness Program Act.

9 Section 2. Declarations and findings.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) House Resolution No. 377 of 2001, adopted December  
12 12, 2001, directed the Joint State Government Commission to  
13 conduct a study to determine if there is a shortage of  
14 applicants for principal and other administrative positions  
15 in this Commonwealth.

16 (2) Subsequently, House Resolution No. 461 of 2002,  
17 adopted June 28, 2002, directed the Joint State Government

Commission to establish a task force consisting of six members of the House of Representatives to facilitate the study.

(3) The task force was directed to file a report with the Education Committee of the House of Representatives containing recommended solutions to correct problems, if any were found to exist.

(4) The job of the school administrator has become more complex and stressful than ever and the compensation, in some districts, may not, in and of itself, encourage an adequate number of individuals to accept the challenges of an administrative position.

(5) The task force recommended that a loan forgiveness program be established to encourage graduate study leading to administrative certification and to assist school entities in high need of filling administrative vacancies in hiring qualified administrators.

### Section 3. Definitions.

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

"Administrator." An individual who is employed by an eligible school entity within this Commonwealth as a district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, elementary principal, middle school/junior high principal, high school/senior high principal, elementary assistant principal, middle school/junior high assistant principal, high school/senior high assistant principal, director/assistant director of vocational technical education, coordinator and supervisor.

1 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
2 Agency.

3 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Eligible school entity." A public school district,  
6 intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school identified  
7 by the Secretary of Education as having a need for school  
8 leadership recruitment loan forgiveness assistance because of  
9 difficulty in filling administrative positions.

10 "Program." The School Leadership Recruitment Loan  
11 Forgiveness Program.

12 "Qualified applicant." An individual who meets all of the  
13 following criteria:

14 (1) Is a resident of this Commonwealth.

15 (2) Has successfully completed an in-State department-  
16 approved certification program for school principal,  
17 vocational education director, supervisor of curriculum and  
18 instruction certificate, supervisor of pupil personnel  
19 certificate, supervisor of special education, supervisor of  
20 vocational education, single area supervisor, or the  
21 superintendent's letter of eligibility and has been issued  
22 the appropriate administrative certificate, supervisory  
23 certificate or letter of eligibility.

24 (3) Has commenced his first year of employment as a  
25 full-time administrator on or after the effective date of  
26 this section.

27 (4) Has borrowed through and has a current outstanding  
28 balance with federally insured guaranteed Stafford or  
29 consolidation loan programs administered by the Pennsylvania  
30 Higher Education Assistance Agency.

1 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

2 Section 4. School Leadership Recruitment Loan Forgiveness  
3 Program.

4 There is hereby established in this Commonwealth the School  
5 Leadership Recruitment Loan Forgiveness Program. Qualified  
6 applicants who are selected for the program in accordance with  
7 this act shall be eligible for payment by the agency of a  
8 portion of the debt incurred by the applicant through the  
9 agency-administered federally insured guaranteed Stafford or  
10 consolidation loan programs for the education necessary to be  
11 certified as an administrator.

12 Section 5. Loan forgiveness awards.

13 (a) Eligibility.--The agency shall forgive a proportional  
14 part of a person's outstanding agency-administered federally  
15 insured student loan for each year the person is a qualified  
16 applicant and is engaged in full-time employment as an  
17 administrator. Each administrator shall be required to submit  
18 documentation of continued eligibility as the agency may  
19 require.

20 (b) Award amount.--The agency shall forgive up to a maximum  
21 of \$10,000 over a 4-year period. No more than \$2,500 shall be  
22 forgiven in any year. Awards shall be made in accordance with  
23 the procedures established by the agency.

24 Section 6. Funding.

25 The agency may issue loan forgiveness awards under this act  
26 to the extent that funds are appropriated by the General  
27 Assembly. If funds appropriated for this act are insufficient to  
28 provide awards under section 5 (relating to loan forgiveness  
29 awards) to all qualified applicants, awards shall be made to  
30 qualified applicants on a pro rata basis.

1 Section 7. Responsibility of the secretary.

2 The secretary shall identify those school entities that have  
3 a need for school leadership recruitment loan forgiveness  
4 assistance because of difficulty in filling administrative  
5 positions. Once identified, the secretary shall share such list  
6 with the agency.

7 Section 8. Responsibility of the agency.

8 The agency shall administer the program and adopt such  
9 regulations, policies, procedures and forms as are necessary to  
10 carry out the provisions of this act.

11 Section 9. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, or immediately,  
13 whichever is later.