By Senator Sebesta

20-1600-00

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A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to forensic laboratories; requiring the Board of Regents and the State 3 4 Board of Community Colleges to establish a loan 5 forgiveness program for eligible students who 6 commit to work in an approved state or federal 7 forensic laboratory after graduation; requiring that the Board of Regents and the State Board 8 9 of Community Colleges consult with the Department of Law Enforcement in establishing 10 11 criteria for participation by students and 12 educational institutions in the loan forgiveness program; providing an effective 13 14 date. 15 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 17 Section 1. Student loan forgiveness program for 18 19 forensic laboratory personnel. --20 (1) The Board of Regents and the State Board of 21 Community Colleges shall establish a loan forgiveness program 22 within the State Community College System and the State 23 University System for the purpose of encouraging students to 24 become qualified for employment in forensic laboratories where 25 critical shortages exist. A student who qualifies for the loan 26 forgiveness program shall receive repayments for loans 27 received from federal programs or commercial lending 2.8 institutions. Loan repayments shall be made for any eligible 29 student who commits to work in an approved state or federal 30 forensic laboratory after graduation.

(2) The Board of Regents and the State Board of Community Colleges shall consult with the Department of Law Enforcement in establishing the criteria for participation by students and educational institutions in the loan forgiveness program and in determining the areas of critical personnel shortages so that the program fulfills a documented state interest. Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. SENATE SUMMARY Requires that the Board of Regents and the State Board of Community Colleges establish a loan forgiveness program to encourage students to qualify for employment in forensic laboratories. Provides for the repayment of loans for students who commit to work in an approved state or federal forensic laboratory after graduation. Requires that the Board of Regents and the State Board of Community Colleges consult with the Department of Law Enforcement in establishing criteria for the program Enforcement in establishing criteria for the program.