By Senator Posey

24-1822-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to the Critical Teacher
3	Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program;
4	amending s. 1009.59, F.S.; revising criteria
5	for applying for loan forgiveness to require an
6	applicant to have taught for a full school year
7	in a subject area in which a critical teacher
8	shortage exists; providing an effective date.
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10	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12	Section 1. Section 1009.59, Florida Statutes, is
13	amended to read:
14	1009.59 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan
15	Forgiveness Program
16	(1) The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan
17	Forgiveness Program is established to encourage qualified
18	persons personnel to seek employment in subject areas in which
19	critical teacher shortages exist, as identified annually by
20	the State Board of Education. The primary function of the
21	program is to make repayments toward $\underline{\text{student}}$ loans received $\underline{\text{by}}$
22	students from federal programs or commercial lending
23	institutions for the support of postsecondary education study.
24	Repayments are intended to be made to qualified applicants who
25	begin teaching for the first time in designated subject areas,
26	and who apply during their first year of teaching as certified
27	teachers in these subject areas.
28	(2) To qualify for loan repayments an applicant must:
29	(a) Be teaching in a designated critical teacher
30	shortage area for the first time and have a valid temporary
31	Florida educator's certificate or license that indicates

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certification or licensure in that subject area and for the academic year for which repayment is requested; and

- (b) Have taught a full school year, as provided in s. 1003.02(1)(q), in a critical teacher shortage area in a publicly funded school, a developmental research school, or a K-12 private school as defined in s. 1002.01 which is recognized by the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools.
- (3)(2) From the funds available, the Department of Education may make loan principal repayments as follows:
- (a) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 4 years on behalf of selected graduates of state-approved undergraduate postsecondary teacher preparation programs, persons certified to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher certification requirements, or selected teacher preparation graduates from any state participating in the Interstate Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel.
- (b) Up to \$5,000 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of selected graduates of state-approved graduate postsecondary teacher preparation programs, persons with graduate degrees certified to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher certification requirements, or selected teacher preparation graduates from any state participating in the Interstate Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel.
- (c) All repayments shall be contingent on continued proof of employment in the designated subject areas in this state and shall be made directly to the holder of the loan. The state shall not bear responsibility for the collection of any interest charges or other remaining balance. In the event that designated critical teacher shortage subject areas are changed by the State Board of Education, a teacher shall

1	continue to be eligible for loan forgiveness as long as he or
2	she continues to teach in the subject area for which the
3	original loan repayment was made and otherwise meets all
4	conditions of eligibility.
5	$rac{(4)}{(3)}$ Students receiving a scholarship loan or a
6	fellowship loan are not eligible to participate in the
7	Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.
8	$\frac{(5)(4)}{(4)}$ The State Board of Education may adopt rules
9	pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to administer
10	for the administration of this program.
11	$\frac{(6)(5)}{(5)}$ This section shall be implemented only to the
12	extent <u>that the program is</u> as specifically funded and
13	authorized by law.
14	Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
15	law.
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18	SENATE SUMMARY
19	Revises the Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program to require those applying for loan
repayments to have taught for a full school year	repayments to have taught for a full school year in a critical teacher shortage subject area.
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