

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Galvano offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Remove lines 841-920 and insert:

5 (1) There is created the Florida Child Welfare Student
6 Loan Forgiveness Program to be administered by the Department of
7 Children and Family Services Education. The program shall
8 provide loan reimbursement assistance to eligible employees in
9 child welfare positions that are critical to the department's
10 mission, as determined by the department, and that are within
11 the department, a law enforcement agency, or a contracted
12 community-based care agency ~~students for upper division~~
13 ~~undergraduate and graduate study. The primary purpose of the~~
14 ~~program is to attract capable and promising students to the~~
15 ~~child welfare profession, increase employment and retention of~~
16 ~~individuals who are working towards or who have received either~~

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17 ~~a bachelor's degree or a master's degree in social work, or any~~
18 ~~human services subject area that qualifies the individual for~~
19 ~~employment as a family services worker, and provide~~
20 ~~opportunities for persons making midcareer decisions to enter~~
21 ~~the child welfare profession. The State Board of Education shall~~
22 ~~adopt rules necessary to administer the program.~~

23 (2)(a) To be eligible for a program loan, the employee's
24 outstanding student loans may not be in a default status. The
25 department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and
26 120.54 necessary to administer the program. ~~a candidate shall:~~

27 1. ~~Be a full-time student at the upper division~~
28 ~~undergraduate or graduate level in a social work program~~
29 ~~approved by the Council on Social Work Education leading to~~
30 ~~either a bachelor's degree or a master's degree in social work~~
31 ~~or an accredited human services degree program.~~

32 2. ~~Have declared an intent to work in child welfare for at~~
33 ~~least the number of years for which a forgivable loan is~~
34 ~~received at the Department of Children and Family Services or~~
35 ~~its successor, or with an eligible lead community based provider~~
36 ~~as defined in s. 409.1671.~~

37 3. ~~If applying for an undergraduate forgivable loan, have~~
38 ~~maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least~~
39 ~~a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work. Renewal~~
40 ~~applicants for undergraduate loans shall have maintained a~~
41 ~~minimum cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a~~
42 ~~4.0 scale for all undergraduate work and have earned at least 12~~
43 ~~semester credits per term, or the equivalent.~~

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44 ~~4. If applying for a graduate forgivable loan, have~~
45 ~~maintained an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of at~~
46 ~~least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or have attained a Graduate Record~~
47 ~~Examination score of at least 1,000. Renewal applicants for~~
48 ~~graduate loans shall have maintained a minimum cumulative grade~~
49 ~~point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all graduate~~
50 ~~work and have earned at least 9 semester credits per term, or~~
51 ~~the equivalent.~~

52 ~~(b) An undergraduate forgivable loan may be awarded for 2~~
53 ~~undergraduate years, not to exceed \$4,000 per year.~~

54 ~~(c) A graduate forgivable loan may be awarded for 2~~
55 ~~graduate years, not to exceed \$8,000 per year. In addition to~~
56 ~~meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at~~
57 ~~the graduate level shall:~~

58 ~~1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a school or department of~~
59 ~~social work at any college or university accredited by the~~
60 ~~Council on Social Work Education, or hold a degree in a human~~
61 ~~services field from an accredited college or university.~~

62 ~~2. Not have received an undergraduate forgivable loan as~~
63 ~~provided for in paragraph (b).~~

64 ~~(d) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule~~
65 ~~repayment schedules and applicable interest rates under ss.~~
66 ~~1009.82 and 1009.95. A forgivable loan must be repaid within 10~~
67 ~~years after completion of a program of studies.~~

68 ~~1. Credit for repayment of an undergraduate or graduate~~
69 ~~forgivable loan shall be in an amount not to exceed \$4,000 in~~
70 ~~loan principal plus applicable accrued interest for each full~~
71 ~~year of eligible service in the child welfare profession.~~

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72 ~~2. Any forgivable loan recipient who fails to work at the~~
73 ~~Department of Children and Family Services or its successor, or~~
74 ~~with an eligible lead community-based provider as defined in s.~~
75 ~~409.1671, is responsible for repaying the loan plus accrued~~
76 ~~interest at 8 percent annually.~~

77 ~~3. Forgivable loan recipients may receive loan repayment~~
78 ~~credit for child welfare service rendered at any time during the~~
79 ~~scheduled repayment period. However, such repayment credit shall~~
80 ~~be applicable only to the current principal and accrued interest~~
81 ~~balance that remains at the time the repayment credit is earned.~~
82 ~~No loan recipient shall be reimbursed for previous cash payments~~
83 ~~of principal and interest.~~

84 (3) This section shall be implemented only as specifically
85 funded.

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89 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

90 Remove line 70 and insert:
91 requirements; directing the Department of Children and Family
92 Services to adopt rules to administer the program; amending s.
93 409.1671, F.S.; providing for