

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness
 3 Program; creating s. 1009.641, F.S.; creating the STEM
 4 Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program; providing for the
 5 administration and funding of the program; providing
 6 for student eligibility and the use of funds;
 7 providing for rulemaking; providing an effective date.

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 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Section 1009.641, Florida Statutes, is created
 12 to read:

13 1009.641 STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.—

14 (1) To encourage and incentivize qualified college
 15 graduates to remain in the state and teach STEM courses at a
 16 public school, there is established the STEM Teacher Loan
 17 Forgiveness Program to be administered by the Department of
 18 Education.

19 (2) To be eligible, a candidate must:

20 (a) Be a graduate of a state university.

21 (b) Hold a valid Florida educator certificate under s.
 22 1012.56.

23 (c) Be employed by a school district and assigned to teach
 24 a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) course
 25 at a public school in the state.

26 (3) Only loans to pay the costs of tuition, books, and

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27 living expenses shall be covered under the program.

28 (4) From funds appropriated for the program, the
29 department may make a loan payment of up to \$16,000 on behalf of
30 selected candidates who complete 8 years of consecutive
31 employment as a teacher of STEM courses at a public school in
32 the state. All payments are contingent upon proof of completion
33 of program requirements and shall be made directly to the holder
34 of the loan.

35 (5) The department may recover from funds appropriated for
36 the program the costs of administering the program.

37 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary
38 to administer the program.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.