



337482

576-02719-16

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program; creating s. 1009.641, F.S.; creating the STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program; providing for the administration of the program; providing for teacher eligibility; specifying the type of loans the program covers; authorizing the Department of Education to make specified loan repayments; authorizing the department to use up to a specified percentage of available funds to administer the program; providing for implementation and rulemaking; providing an effective date.

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

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

1009.641 STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.—

(1) The STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, administered by the Department of Education, is established to encourage and incentivize qualified Florida college graduates to remain in this state to teach STEM courses at a public school.

(2) To be eligible to participate in this program, a teacher must meet all of the following criteria:

(a) Receive a baccalaureate or graduate degree from a Florida public postsecondary education institution.

(b) Hold a valid Florida educator's certificate under s.



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28 1012.56.

29 (c) Be employed by a public school district and assigned to  
30 teach a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM)  
31 course at a public school in this state for 8 consecutive years.

32 (d) Not receive student loan repayment assistance from any  
33 other state, local, or federal program or private fund.

34 (3) The program may cover only those loans received by  
35 students from federal programs or commercial lending  
36 institutions for the support of the study of education at a  
37 postsecondary education institution.

38 (4) The department may make loan repayments, which shall be  
39 prorated based on available appropriations, of up to \$4,000 a  
40 year for up to 4 years on behalf of teachers who meet the  
41 eligibility requirements under subsection (2). All loan  
42 repayments shall be made directly to the holder of the loan and  
43 shall be contingent on proof of continued employment by a public  
44 school district and of continued assignment to teach a STEM  
45 course.

46 (5) The department may use only up to 1 percent of the  
47 funds appropriated for the program to administer this section,  
48 unless the General Appropriations Act authorizes a different  
49 amount for such purpose.

50 (6) This section shall be implemented only as specifically  
51 funded.

52 (7) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
53 administer the program.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.