

By Senator Flores

37-01409-16

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Teacher Certification
3 Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program; creating s.
4 1009.621, F.S.; establishing the program; providing
5 for administration of the program; providing for
6 teacher eligibility and the use of funds; authorizing
7 the Department of Education to recover costs;
8 providing rulemaking authority; providing an effective
9 date.

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

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13 Section 1. Section 1009.621, Florida Statutes, is created
14 to read:

15 1009.621 Teacher Certification Reimbursement and Loan
16 Repayment Program.—

17 (1) To retain qualified and effective teachers within the
18 state's public schools, there is established the Teacher
19 Certification Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program to be
20 administered by the Department of Education. The function of the
21 program is to reimburse eligible teachers who hold a
22 professional certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56 for costs
23 incurred in meeting the mastery of professional preparation and
24 education competence requirements of the professional
25 certificate or make payments that offset loans incurred in
26 meeting the requirement.

27 (2) A teacher is eligible to participate in the program if
28 he or she:

29 (a) Teaches for 3 years in a public school with a temporary
30 certificate issued pursuant to s. 1012.56(7)(b);

31 (b) Completes the requirements for and earns a professional
32 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56(7)(a); and

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33 (c) Upon earning a professional certificate, teaches for an
34 additional 2 years in a public school.

35 (3) From funds appropriated for the program, the department
36 may reimburse an eligible teacher or may make a loan payment on
37 behalf of an eligible teacher for the costs of tuition, fees,
38 and books associated with a state-approved teacher preparation
39 program from a state university or Florida College System
40 institution or a Florida Educator Preparation Institute program
41 necessary to meet the mastery of professional preparation and
42 education competence pursuant to s. 1012.56(6).

43 (4) The department may recover costs of administering the
44 program from funds appropriated for the program.

45 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary
46 to administer the program.

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