

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.; creating the program; providing for  
5           administration and funding of the program; providing  
6           for teacher 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 1009.621, Florida Statutes, is created  
12   to read:

13           1009.621 Teacher Certification Reimbursement and Loan  
14   Repayment Program.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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