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 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.
 8
 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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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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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, 2016.

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