

E N R O L L E D

H. B. 2645

(BY DELEGATE(S) MR. SPEAKER (MR. ARMSTEAD)
AND MILEY)

[BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE]

[Passed March 9, 2015;
in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18C-4A-1, §18C-4A-2, and §18C-4A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to modifying the Underwood-Smith Teacher Loan Assistance Program; increasing annual award from program; and expanding teacher eligibility for program awards.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §18C-4A-1, §18C-4A-2 and §18C-4A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4A. UNDERWOOD-SMITH TEACHER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

§18C-4A-1. Selection criteria and procedures for loan assistance.

1 (a) The Governor shall designate the Higher Education
2 Student Financial Aid Advisory Board created by section five,
3 article one of this chapter to select recipients to receive
4 Underwood-Smith Teacher Loan Assistance Awards.

5 (b) To be eligible for a loan award, a teacher shall agree to
6 teach, or shall currently be teaching, a subject area of critical
7 need or in a school or geographic area of the state identified as
8 an area of critical need. The advisory board shall make decisions
9 regarding loan assistance pursuant to section one, article four of
10 this chapter.

11 (c) In accordance with the rule promulgated pursuant to
12 section one, article four of this chapter, the Vice Chancellor for
13 Administration shall develop additional eligibility criteria and
14 procedures for the administration of the loan program.

15 (d) The Vice Chancellor for Administration shall make
16 available program application forms to public and private
17 schools in the state via the website of the commission and the
18 State Department of Education and in other locations convenient
19 to potential applicants.

§18C-4A-2. Loan assistance agreement.

1 (a) Before receiving an award, each eligible teacher shall
2 enter into an agreement with the Vice Chancellor for
3 Administration and shall meet the following criteria:

4 (1) Provide the commission with evidence of compliance
5 with subsection (b), section four, article four of this chapter;

6 (2) Teach in a subject area of critical need or in a school or
7 geographic area of critical need full time under contract with a

8 county board for a period of two school years for each year for
9 which loan assistance is received pursuant to this article. The
10 Vice Chancellor for Administration may grant a partial award to
11 an eligible recipient whose contract term is for less than a full
12 school year pursuant to criteria established by commission rule.

13 (3) Acknowledge that an award is to be paid to the
14 recipient's student loan institution, not directly to the recipient,
15 and only after the commission determines that the recipient has
16 complied with all terms of the agreement; and

17 (4) Repay all or part of an award received pursuant to this
18 article if the award is not paid to the student loan institution or
19 if the recipient does not comply with the other terms of the
20 agreement.

21 (b) Each loan agreement shall disclose fully the terms and
22 conditions under which an award may be granted pursuant to this
23 article and under which repayment may be required. The
24 agreement also is subject to and shall include the terms and
25 conditions established by section five, article four of this
26 chapter.

§18C-4A-3. Amount and duration of loan assistance; limits.

1 (a) Each award recipient is eligible to receive loan assistance
2 of up to \$3,000 annually, subject to limits set forth in subsection
3 (b) of this section:

4 (1) If the recipient has taught for a full school year under
5 contract with a county board in a subject area of critical need or
6 in a school or geographic area of critical need; and

7 (2) If the recipient otherwise has complied with the terms of
8 the agreement and with applicable provisions of this article and
9 article four of this chapter, and any rules promulgated pursuant
10 thereto.

11 (b) The recipient is eligible for renewal of loan assistance
12 only during periods when the recipient is under contract with a
13 county board to teach in a subject area of critical need or in a
14 school or geographic area of critical need and complies with
15 other criteria and conditions established by rule, except that a
16 teacher who is teaching under a contract in a position that no
17 longer meets the definition of critical need under rules
18 established in accordance with section one, article four of this
19 chapter is eligible for renewal of loan assistance until the teacher
20 leaves his or her current position.

21 (c) A recipient may not receive loan assistance pursuant to
22 this article which accumulates in excess of \$15,000.

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman, House Committee

Chairman, Senate Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Clerk of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

The within _____ this the _____
day of _____, 2015.

Governor

