

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2017 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2858**

BY DELEGATE ROWE

[Introduced March 8, 2017; Referred  
to the Committee on Education then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §18C-2-10, relating to creating a loan tuition forgiveness program to  
 3 encourage students in selected and necessary fields to remain in the state; creating a  
 4 “New College Families” loan forgiveness program; and creating a loan forgiveness  
 5 program for counties with low college attendance.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
 2 section, designated §18C-2-10, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 2. GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

**§18C-2-10. Student loan forgiveness programs.**

1 (a) Institutions of higher education in the state may establish student loan forgiveness  
 2 programs for funds paid through the institutions or their supporting foundations, if the institution  
 3 governing boards approve a plan therefor, for eligible students, including without limitation:

4 (1) *New College Families Program.* -- West Virginia residents who are in new college  
 5 families as the first member to graduate from a two or four-year college and who work full time in  
 6 the state for at least three consecutive years immediately following graduation.

7 (2) *Return to Home Program.* -- Students who graduate from West Virginia high schools  
 8 with historically low college attendance rates and return to work full time in the county in which  
 9 their high school was located for at least three consecutive years immediately following  
 10 graduation.

11 (3) *STEM Program.* -- Students who graduate from a West Virginia institution of higher  
 12 learning with a degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics and work full time in  
 13 the state for at least three consecutive years immediately following graduation.

14 (b) Institutions which adopt student loan forgiveness programs shall report to the West  
 15 Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the terms of the programs and their costs and  
 16 benefits.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a loan tuition forgiveness program to encourage students in selected and necessary fields to remain in the state; create a “New College Families” loan forgiveness program; and create a loan forgiveness program for counties with low college attendance.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.