

# SB0309



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB0309

Introduced 2/2/2023, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.58 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates the Teacher Loan Repayment Program. Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall consider applications for forgiving portions of qualified applicant's education loans each year. Provides that 10% of the applicant's yearly loan balance shall be forgiven each year for 5 years or until 50% of the applicant's outstanding balance at the time of the initial application is paid off. Effective July 1, 2024.

LRB103 26404 RJT 52767 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by adding Section 65.58 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.58 new)

7 Sec. 65.58. Teacher Loan Repayment Program.

8 (a) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
9 students to enter and continue teaching in Illinois schools in  
10 low-income areas and to encourage students to enter the early  
11 child care profession and serve low-income areas, the  
12 Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications  
13 for loan forgiveness under this Section. This program shall be  
14 known as the Teacher Loan Repayment Program. The Commission  
15 shall administer the program and shall make all necessary and  
16 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for the  
17 program's effective implementation.

18 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such  
19 purposes, the Commission shall award a grant to each qualified  
20 applicant in an amount equal to a percentage designated in  
21 subsection (d) of the remaining balance the qualified  
22 applicant's outstanding educational loans. The Commission  
23 shall encourage the recipient of a grant under this Section to

1 use the grant amount awarded to pay off his or her educational  
2 loans.

3 (c) A person is a qualified applicant under this Section  
4 if he or she meets all of the following qualifications:

5 (1) the person is a United States citizen or eligible  
6 noncitizen;

7 (2) the person is a resident of this State; and

8 (3) the person currently has outstanding student  
9 loans.

10 (d) The Commission shall yearly grant the qualified  
11 applicant an amount equal to 10% of the qualified applicant's  
12 remaining loan balance each year if he or she teaches at a  
13 public school district. The Commission shall grant this amount  
14 to the qualified applicant for 5 years or until 50% of the  
15 qualified applicant's outstanding balance at the time of the  
16 initial application is paid off.

17 (e) All applications for grant assistance under this  
18 Section shall be made to the Commission. The form of  
19 application and the information required to be set forth in  
20 the application shall be determined by the Commission, and the  
21 Commission shall require applicants to submit with their  
22 application such supporting documents as the Commission deems  
23 necessary.

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
25 2024.