

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: S3/17/03

A Bill

SENATE BILL 186

5 By: Senator J. Jeffress
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SCHOOL-BASED TEACHER LOAN
10 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SCHOOL-BASED
13 TEACHER LOAN PROGRAM.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 6-82-1601. Title.

22 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "School-Based
23 Teacher Loan Program Act of 2003".
24

25 6-82-1602. Program established - Purpose.

26 (a) There is established the School-Based Teacher Loan Program.

27 (b) The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage local school
28 districts to provide scholarships to individuals who declare an intention to
29 serve in the teaching field and who agree to actually render service to the
30 school district upon receipt of a teaching license.
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32 6-82-1603. Eligibility for loan - Amount.

33 (a) Any individual who is enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at a
34 baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher learning with a teacher
35 education program that is approved by the State Board of Education or at an
36 accredited state-supported community college in the State of Arkansas, and



1 who expresses in writing an intention to teach in the local school district
2 granting the loan, may be granted a forgivable loan by the local school
3 district to be applied toward the costs of the individual's college
4 education.

5 (b) The local school district is authorized to develop selection
6 criteria.

7 (c) The annual amount of the forgivable loan shall not exceed five
8 thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500) per year.

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10 6-82-1604. Service requirement for loan recipients.

11 (a) Except in those cases where employment positions may not be
12 available upon completion of licensure requirements, at the beginning of the
13 first school year in which a recipient of a loan is eligible for employment
14 as a licensed teacher, that person shall begin to render service as a
15 licensed teacher in the public school district that granted the loan.

16 (b)(1) Any person who received loans for four (4) years, or the
17 equivalent of that amount, shall render four (4) years of service as a
18 licensed teacher in the school district that made the loan.

19 (2) Any person who received fewer than four (4) loans, or the
20 equivalent of that amount, shall render one (1) year of service as a licensed
21 teacher in the school district that made the loan for each year that the
22 person received a full-time student loan or for the number of academic hours
23 equivalent to one (1) school year, as determined by the university, for which
24 a part-time student received a loan.

25 (c)(1) Any person failing to complete a program of study which will
26 enable the person to become a licensed teacher shall begin repaying the loan
27 according to its terms, less the corresponding amount of any loans for which
28 service has been rendered.

29 (2) Any person failing to complete his or her teaching
30 obligation, as required under subsection (b) of this section, shall begin
31 repaying the loan according to its terms for the sum of all loans made to
32 that person, less the corresponding amount of any loans for which service has
33 been rendered, except in the case of a deferral of debt for cause approved by
34 the local school board if there is no employment position immediately
35 available upon a teacher's completion of licensure requirements.

36 (3) After the period of the deferral, the person shall begin or

1 resume teaching duties as required under this section or shall become liable
2 for repayment of the loan as required under this section.

3 (4) If a claim for payment under subsection (c) is placed in the
4 hands of an attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an
5 additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

6 (d) The obligations made by the recipient of a loan shall not be
7 voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the
8 loan.

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10 6-82-1605. Rules and regulations - Administration.

11 (a) The State Board of Education shall, in partnership with the local
12 school districts, devise criteria, provide a method of implementation and
13 provide oversight to school districts providing scholarships under this act.

14 (b) Before January 1, 2004, the State Board of Education shall
15 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the proper administration of a
16 school-based teacher loan program for the local districts.

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18 /s/ J. Jeffress
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