

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 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 858

5 By: Senators Broadway, Salmon, Bookout
6 By: Representatives J. Roebuck, Abernathy, M. Burris
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT WORKER
11 LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT WORKER
15 LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.
16

17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, is amended to add an
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 16 - ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT WORKER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

6-81-1601. Title.

25 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
26 Government Worker Loan Repayment Program."
27

6-81-1602. Definitions.

29 As used in this subchapter:

30 (1) "Eligible state government worker" means any individual who:

31 (A) Meets the criteria set out by this subchapter; and

32 (B) Is deemed to be eligible by rules promulgated by the

33 Department of Higher Education; and

34 (2) "Master's degree or above" means any degree that is a
35 master's degree, doctorate, or professional degree from an accredited
36 institution of higher education.



1
2 6-81-1603. Creation - Purpose.

3 (a) There is created the Arkansas Government Worker Loan Repayment
4 Program.

5 (b) The purpose of the Arkansas Government Worker Loan Repayment
6 Program is to encourage students to work in state government, upon completion
7 of a master's degree or above, which will help improve the state by retaining
8 qualified state employees.

9
10 6-81-1604. Department of Higher Education -- Administration and
11 Authority.

12 (a) The Arkansas Government Worker Loan Repayment Program shall be
13 administered by the Department of Higher Education.

14 (b) The department shall adopt standards for awarding the loan
15 repayments to ensure that only eligible state government workers with a
16 master's degree or above receive repayment awards.

17 (c) The requirements of this subchapter are contingent on the funding
18 available for the program.

19 (d) The department may determine the necessary procedures for the
20 awarding of the loan repayment awards if the number of eligible applicants
21 and recipients exceed the available funds.

22
23 6-81-1605. Eligibility.

24 An eligible state government worker shall:

25 (1) Work full-time at a state government entity or agency;

26 (2) Have completed:

27 (A) A master's degree or above prior to application for
28 employment, if hired after June 2009; or

29 (B) A minimum of six (6) hours or more toward a master's
30 degree or above by July 2009, to be eligible upon completion of the degree,
31 for current state government entity or agency employees; and

32 (4) Meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established
33 by the Department of Higher Education.

34
35 6-81-1606. Duration -- Amount.

36 (a)(1) The Arkansas Government Worker Loan Repayment Program shall

1 provide a loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of four
 2 thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year for a maximum of five (5) years for a
 3 recipient.

4 (2) The loan repayment shall be reimbursed on a monthly basis.

5 (b) The Department of Higher Education may use up to fifty thousand
 6 dollars (\$50,000) annually from the fund balance for costs associated with
 7 administration of the Arkansas Government Worker Loan Repayment Program.

8 (c) The department shall promulgate rules necessary for the
 9 implementation of this subchapter.

10 (d)(1) This program shall cease in 2014.

11 (2) No payments shall be made after December 2014.

12
 13 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the financial aid program
 15 created in this act will be effective for the 2009-2010 school year; that
 16 students who are graduating in May 2009 will be affected by this
 17 program and may be eligible for this program; that timing is critical for
 18 the dissemination of information to these students to ensure that eligible
 19 students know about the program and have the opportunity to apply for the
 20 program for the 2009-2010 school year; and that this act is immediately
 21 necessary to give the Department of Higher Education adequate time to
 22 implement and to publicize the program to potentially eligible students who
 23 are graduating in May 2009. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and
 24 this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
 25 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

26 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

27 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 28 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 29 bill; or

30 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 31 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

32
 33
 34
 35
 36