

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 880  
**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** Loan forgiveness program for agricultural education teachers

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### Overview

Establishes a \$3,000-per-qualified-teacher-per-year loan forgiveness program available for up to five years to licensed agricultural education teachers who (1) teach agricultural education in any grade 5 through 12 in a public, tribal contract, charter, or private school in the current school year, (2) have qualified education loans, and (3) apply to the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education. Appropriates unspecified sums to the commissioner for the program, for deposit in the agricultural education loan forgiveness account.

#### Section

##### 1 **Agricultural education loan forgiveness program.**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines qualified education loan, qualified teacher, and school for purposes of this program.

**Subd. 2. Creation of account.** (a) Establishes an agricultural education loan forgiveness program to provide qualified teachers with financial assistance in repaying their education loans. Directs the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education to use the money from the account for the loan forgiveness program.

(b) Causes the appropriations made to the agricultural education loan forgiveness account not to cancel and to be available until expended.

**Subd. 3. Eligibility.** Requires an eligible individual to (1) be a licensed teacher teaching agricultural education in any grade 5 through 12 in a public, tribal contract, charter, or private school in the current school year, (2) have qualified education loans, and (3) apply to the commissioner.

**Section**

**Subd. 4. Loan forgiveness.** (a) Directs the commissioner to select eligible applicants each year to participate in the program, to the extent funding is available. Makes applicants responsible for securing their own loans.

(b) Directs the commissioner to annually disburse to each eligible participant a payment of \$3,000 or the balance of the person's qualified loan, whichever is less, for up to five years.

(c) Directs the participant to verify to the commissioner that the participant applied the full loan amount toward the person's qualified loan. The commissioner must receive and approve the verification before disbursing the next loan forgiveness payment.

**Subd. 5. Rules.** Allows the commissioner to adopt rules to implement this section.

**2 Loan forgiveness; appropriation.** Appropriates unspecified general fund amounts in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education for the loan forgiveness program, to be deposited in the agricultural education loan forgiveness account.