

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2576
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Subject: Promoting awareness of loan forgiveness programs

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Overview

H.F. 2576 requires the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to develop informational materials to promote awareness of the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. It additionally requires public and nonprofit employers whose employees may be eligible for the program to inform their employees of their potential eligibility and provide them with the informational materials developed by OHE.

Section

1 Promotion of federal loan forgiveness programs. Requires OHE to develop informational materials to promote public awareness of existing loan forgiveness programs, and publish the materials on its website.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines “federal loan forgiveness program,” “public service loan forgiveness program,” and “public service organization.”

Subd. 2. Promotion of loan forgiveness programs. Requires the OHE to develop and distribute informational materials to increase public awareness of federal loan forgiveness programs.

At a minimum, the commissioner must develop:

- (1) a one-page letter to individuals who may be eligible for the public service loan forgiveness program, and briefly describes how to participate;
- (2) a detailed fact sheet about the program; and
- (3) answers to frequently asked questions about the program.

Section

Subd. 3. Publication of informational materials. Requires the OHE to publish the informational materials developed under subdivision 2 on its website.

2 Disclosure of eligibility for student loan forgiveness. Requires nonprofit and public employers to disclose to their employees that they may be eligible for the public service loan forgiveness program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines “employer” as a public service organization as defined in the public service loan forgiveness program, but excluding federal and tribal organizations.

Defines “employment certification form” as a form used by the U.S. Department of Education to certify an individual’s employment at a public service organization.

Defines “federal public service loan forgiveness program” as public service loan forgiveness program administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Subd. 2. Disclosure of eligibility for student loan forgiveness. (a) Requires employers to provide their employees with information about their potential eligibility for the federal public service loan forgiveness program. On January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, employers must provide their employees with the informational materials developed by OHE under section 1 of the bill.

(b) Requires employers to provide the informational materials developed by OHE to their employees within two weeks of a new employee’s first day of employment.

(c) Requires an employer whose employee requests the employer certification form to provide the form to the employee.