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## Overview

H.F. 2226 establishes a loan forgiveness program at the Office of Higher Education (OHE) for agricultural educators. To qualify, an individual would need to be employed as an agricultural education teacher in grades 5 through 12 at a Minnesota school, and have completed a Minnesota undergraduate or graduate program in agricultural education. Eligible individuals would receive \$3,000 in loan forgiveness per year, for up to five years.

### Section

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

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms for the purposes of the section.

(b) Defines “Qualified education loan” as a government, commercial, or foundation loan for actual costs paid for tuition, education expenses, and living expenses related to the graduate or undergraduate education of a qualified teacher.

(c) Defines “qualified teacher” as a licensed teacher who is employed in a non-administrative position teaching agricultural education in any grade from 5 through 12 at a Minnesota school, and who completed undergraduate or graduate program in agricultural education at a Minnesota college or university approved to prepare persons for teacher licensure.

(d) Defines school as: (1) a school or program offered by a school district or group of districts; (2) a tribal contract school eligible for state aid for tribal contract or grant schools; (3) a charter school; or (4) a private school.

## **Section**

**Subd. 2. Account; appropriation.** Establishes an account for the program in the special revenue fund. Appropriates money in the account to OHE.

**Subd. 3. Eligibility.** Establishes eligibility criteria. To qualify for the program, an individual must be a qualified teacher with qualified education loans, and must apply in the form and manner specified by OHE.

**Subd. 4. Loan forgiveness.** (a) Authorizes OHE to select eligible applicants, within the limits of available funding. Stipulates that applicants must secure their own qualified loans.

(b) Requires OHE to make annual disbursements to a participant of \$3,000 for each year the participant meets the eligibility requirements. If the participant's loan balance is less than \$3,000, the disbursement is limited to the loan balance. Limits an individual to receiving five awards.

(c) Requires an award recipient to verify that the award was applied towards a qualified education loan.

**2 Account; appropriation.** Transfers \$500,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 from the general fund to the account established for the program.