

Senate Bill 498

Sponsored by Senator GORSEK (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to prepare specified materials related to Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Requires public education employers to distribute materials to and to otherwise assist eligible employees with program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Eligible employee" means an employee of a public education employer who is eligible**
6 **to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program because the employee works**
7 **full time.**

8 (b) **"Employment certification form" means the form used by the United States Depart-**
9 **ment of Education to certify an eligible employee's employment for the purposes of the**
10 **Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.**

11 (c) **"Public education employer" means an employer that provides public education in this**
12 **state, including:**

13 (A) **A school district;**

14 (B) **A public charter school;**

15 (C) **An education service district;**

16 (D) **A community college district; and**

17 (E) **A public university listed in ORS 352.002.**

18 (d) **"Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program" means the federal loan forgiveness pro-**
19 **gram administered by the United States Department of Education that forgives a portion of**
20 **an eligible employee's education loans after the eligible employee has satisfied specified pub-**
21 **lic service and loan repayment requirements.**

22 (2) **The Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission**
23 **shall collaborate to develop materials designed to increase awareness of the Public Service**
24 **Loan Forgiveness Program. The materials developed by the department and the commission**
25 **must include at least the following:**

26 (a) **A one-page form letter for use by a public education employer to notify potentially**
27 **eligible employees about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, including:**

28 (A) **A brief summary of the program;**

29 (B) **The requirements to be eligible to participate in the program;**

30 (C) **The process to begin participation in the program; and**

31 (D) **A recommendation that the potentially eligible employee contact the employee's loan**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **servicer for additional information.**

2 **(b) A detailed fact sheet describing the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.**

3 **(c) A document containing answers to frequently asked questions about the Public Ser-**
4 **vice Loan Forgiveness Program.**

5 **(3) The department and commission shall make available the materials described in sub-**
6 **section (2) of this section for public education employers to distribute to potentially eligible**
7 **employees.**

8 **(4) Each public education employer shall provide the materials described in subsection (2)**
9 **of this section in written or electronic form or in person as follows:**

10 **(a) Annually to all potentially eligible employees; and**

11 **(b) Within 30 days of a potentially eligible employee's first day of employment.**

12 **(5) A public education employer shall provide an eligible employee who is enrolled in the**
13 **Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program with a copy of the employment certification form,**
14 **which must have the employer portion of the form already completed. The employment cer-**
15 **tification form must be provided:**

16 **(a) Annually; and**

17 **(b) Within a reasonable time after being requested by the employee.**

18 **(6) For the purpose of qualifying for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and**
19 **completing the employment certification form, the State Board of Education and the com-**
20 **mission shall adopt rules to assist public education employers in determining if an employee**
21 **works full time. The rules must:**

22 **(a) Comply with regulations adopted by the United States Department of Education; and**

23 **(b) For community college districts and public universities:**

24 **(A) Recognize the amount of out-of-class work that is associated with instruction, in-**
25 **cluding the performance of office hours; and**

26 **(B) Provide credit for noninstructional assignments.**

27