

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

LLS NO. 01-0360.01 Michele Hanigsberg

**HOUSE BILL 01-1142**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Spence**, Snook, Alexander, Bacon, Berry, Clapp, Crane, Daniel, Decker, Groff, Hefley, Kester, King, Larson, Lee, Mitchell, Stafford, Weddig, White, Williams S., Williams T., and Witwer

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Tate**, Andrews, Hillman, and Windels

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM, AND**  
102             **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Authorizes the Colorado commission on higher education ("commission") to establish and maintain a teacher loan forgiveness program ("program"). Specifies that teachers will be eligible for the program if they begin their first year of teaching math, science, special education, or bilingual education between June 2001 and the 2005 academic year, and meet other specified qualifications. Makes teachers eligible for up to 4 years of loan forgiveness, as long as they teach in these disciplines. Funds the program through general fund appropriations and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

allocations made by the Colorado student obligation bond authority.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) There is a shortage of teachers in Colorado in certain  
5 disciplines, including math, science, special education, and linguistically  
6 diverse education;

7 [REDACTED]  
8 (b) Retirements resulting from the aging of the current teacher  
9 employee force contribute to the shortages anticipated in the future; and

10 (c) It is in the best interests of the state and families within the  
11 state to provide incentives to encourage beginning teachers and those still  
12 in college to seek employment as teachers in rural and urban school  
13 districts that have difficulty filling these teaching positions.

14 **SECTION 2.** Title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY  
15 THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

16 **ARTICLE 3.9**  
17 **Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program**

18 **23-3.9-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
19 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

20 (1) "APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION" MEANS A PROGRAM OF  
21 STUDY FOR PREPARATION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE COLORADO  
22 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-121 AND  
23 THAT UPON COMPLETION LEADS TO A RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSURE  
24 BY AN ACCEPTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO.

25 (2) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER

1 EDUCATION.

2 (3) "QUALIFIED POSITION" MEANS A TEACHING POSITION IN MATH,  
3 SCIENCE, SPECIAL EDUCATION, OR LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE EDUCATION IN  
4 A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL.

5 **23-3.9-102. Teacher loan forgiveness program - administration**

6 **- fund - conditions.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY AUTHORIZES  
7 THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A TEACHER LOAN  
8 FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION BEGINNING IN THE 2001-02  
9 ACADEMIC YEAR IN WHICH THE STATE AGREES TO PAY ALL OR PART OF THE  
10 PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST OF THE EDUCATIONAL LOANS OF EACH  
11 FIRST-YEAR TEACHER WHO IS HIRED FOR A QUALIFIED POSITION.  
12 REPAYMENT OF LOANS THROUGH THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS  
13 PROGRAM MAY BE MADE USING ONLY GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY  
14 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIFICALLY FOR SAID PROGRAM OR MONEYS  
15 ALLOCATED TO THE PROGRAM BY THE COLORADO STUDENT OBLIGATION  
16 BOND AUTHORITY. ALL MONEYS APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY FOR THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM SHALL BE  
18 CREDITED TO THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND, WHICH FUND IS  
19 HEREBY CREATED. MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL ARE HEREBY  
20 CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
21 EDUCATION FOR THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM. AT THE END  
22 OF ANY FISCAL YEAR, ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS IN  
23 THE FUND SHALL REMAIN THEREIN AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR  
24 TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

25 (2) IN ADDITION TO ANY QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED BY THE  
26 COMMISSION, TO QUALIFY FOR THE TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS  
27 PROGRAM, A TEACHER SHALL:

1 (a) GRADUATE FROM AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION;

2 (b) MEET LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION  
3 22-60.5-201 (1) (b) OR (1) (c) OR 22-60.5-210, C.R.S.;

4 (c) DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES CONSISTENT  
5 WITH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES IN THE SUBJECT MATTER IN  
6 WHICH THE TEACHER OBTAINS A QUALIFIED POSITION; AND

7 (d) CONTRACT FOR THE TEACHER'S FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING IN A  
8 QUALIFIED POSITION NO EARLIER THAN JUNE 2001, AND NO LATER THAN  
9 THE END OF THE 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR;

10 (3) A TEACHER WHO QUALIFIES UNDER SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
11 SECTION IS ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOAN  
12 FORGIVENESS FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING IN A QUALIFIED POSITION  
13 AND UP TO TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EACH OF  
14 THE NEXT THREE YEARS OF TEACHING IN A QUALIFIED POSITION.

15 **23-3.9-103. Reporting.** ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2002, AND  
16 ON OR BEFORE EACH DECEMBER 15 THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
17 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE  
18 SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT  
19 LIMITED TO, THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM, THE AMOUNT  
20 OF FUNDS APPLIED TOWARD LOAN FORGIVENESS, AND THE SOURCES OF  
21 THOSE FUNDS.

22 **23-3.9-104. Repeal.** THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY  
23 1, 2008.

24 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** In addition to any other  
25 appropriation, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, there is hereby  
26 appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund not otherwise  
27 appropriated, to the teacher loan forgiveness fund created in section

1 23-3.9-102, Colorado Revised Statutes, the sum of five hundred thousand  
2 dollars (\$500,000), and such sum, or so much thereof as may be  
3 necessary, is further appropriated to the department of higher education,  
4 for the implementation of this act.

5 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.