

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 2719

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/17/2014	6281	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education
03/19/2014	6388	Author added Rest
03/27/2014	6939	Author added Dziedzic

A bill for an act

relating to education; establishing programs to increase STEM competitiveness; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 126C.10, by adding a subdivision; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 126C.10, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 122A.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[122A.76] STEM EDUCATOR LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms in this subdivision have the meanings given them.

(b) "Qualified educational loan" means a government, commercial, or foundation loan for actual costs paid for tuition, reasonable education expenses, and reasonable living expenses related to the graduate or undergraduate education of a qualified teacher.

(c) "Qualified teacher" means a licensed teacher who:

(1) has a license under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.3200, 8710.3320, 8710.3340, 8710.4050, 8710.4500, 8710.4525, 8710.4600, 8710.4750, 8710.4770, or 8710.4850;

(2) is teaching science, technology, engineering, or mathematics during the current school year; and

(3) has completed a graduate level course in science, engineering, or mathematics with a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

Subd. 2. **Creation of account.** (a) A STEM educator loan forgiveness program account is established. The commissioner of education shall use money from the account to establish a loan forgiveness program.

(b) Appropriations made to the account do not cancel and are available until expended, except that at the end of each biennium, any remaining balance in the account

2.1 that is not committed by contract and not needed to fulfill existing commitments shall
2.2 cancel to the fund.

2.3 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** To be eligible to participate in the loan forgiveness program,
2.4 an individual must be a qualified teacher and submit an application to the commissioner
2.5 of education.

2.6 Subd. 4. **Loan forgiveness.** The commissioner of education may select applicants
2.7 each year for participation in the loan forgiveness program, within the limits of available
2.8 funding. Applicants are responsible for securing their own qualified educational loans.
2.9 The commissioner shall select participants, giving preference to qualified teachers in
2.10 school districts with below average state mathematics test scores. For each year that
2.11 the qualified teacher under subdivision 1 is a participant, up to a maximum of four
2.12 years, the commissioner shall make annual disbursements directly to the participant up
2.13 to \$2,500 per year. Before receiving loan repayment disbursements and as requested,
2.14 the participant must complete and return to the commissioner a form provided by the
2.15 commissioner verifying that the participant is teaching science, technology, engineering,
2.16 or mathematics as required under subdivision 1. The participant must provide the
2.17 commissioner with verification that the full amount of loan repayment disbursement
2.18 received by the participant has been applied toward the designated loans. After each
2.19 disbursement, verification must be received by the commissioner and approved before the
2.20 next loan repayment disbursement is made.

2.21 Subd. 5. **Rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.

2.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2014.

2.23 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 126C.10, subdivision 1, is
2.24 amended to read:

2.25 Subdivision 1. **General education revenue.** (a) For fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the
2.26 general education revenue for each district equals the sum of the district's basic revenue,
2.27 extended time revenue, gifted and talented revenue, small schools revenue, basic skills
2.28 revenue, secondary sparsity revenue, elementary sparsity revenue, transportation sparsity
2.29 revenue, total operating capital revenue, equity revenue, alternative teacher compensation
2.30 revenue, and transition revenue.

2.31 (b) For fiscal year 2015 and later, the general education revenue for each district
2.32 equals the sum of the district's basic revenue, extended time revenue, gifted and
2.33 talented revenue, declining enrollment revenue, location equity revenue, small schools
2.34 revenue, basic skills revenue, secondary sparsity revenue, elementary sparsity revenue,

3.1 transportation sparsity revenue, total operating capital revenue, equity revenue, pension
3.2 adjustment revenue, advanced STEM curriculum revenue, and transition revenue.

3.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2016
3.4 and later.

3.5 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 126C.10, is amended by adding a subdivision
3.6 to read:

3.7 **Subd. 38. Advanced STEM curriculum revenue.** Advanced STEM curriculum
3.8 revenue for a school district in which:

3.9 (1) 60 percent or greater of the students are eligible for free and reduced-price
3.10 lunches; and

3.11 (2) the district has implemented an advanced STEM curriculum to the standards
3.12 of the Department of Education;

3.13 equals \$16 times the district's adjusted pupil units.

3.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2016
3.15 and later.

3.16 Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.17 \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2015 from the general fund to the commissioner
3.18 of education to establish the STEM educator loan forgiveness program under Minnesota
3.19 Statutes, section 122A.76.