

CHAPTER 261

AN ACT

HB 3255

Relating to providing information to employees about the public service loan forgiveness program; and prescribing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 329.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Education employer” means a public charter school, a school district, a tribal college, a community college or university, as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3), as in effect on the effective date of this 2021 Act, and any other governmental agency within this state that employs a teacher or a school nurse, as defined in ORS 336.204, in a full-time capacity which, for the purposes of this paragraph, means including within the calculation of full-time equivalent work hours every hour in which the teacher or school nurse engages in instruction and at least 3.35 additional hours for each hour of instruction.

(b) “Public service loan forgiveness program” means the program under which the United States Secretary of Education cancels the balance of interest and principal due on eligible federal direct loans in accordance with the criteria specified under 20 U.S.C. 1087e(m) and 34 C.F.R 685.219, both as in effect on the effective date of this 2021 Act.

(2)(a) An education employer shall provide all employees who qualify for a public service

loan forgiveness program with materials and assistance that:

(A) Increases awareness of the public service loan forgiveness program among eligible employees of the education employer; and

(B) Increases participation by employees in the public service loan forgiveness program.

(b) Materials described in paragraph (a) of this subsection may include, but are not limited to:

(A) Announcements and advertisements in an education employer’s official publications and in any electronic mail or social media messages the education employer sends to employees;

(B) Inserts or other messages in employee paychecks or payment instruments, to the extent practicable; or

(C) Other periodic reminders in communications to employees.

(c) An education employer shall direct an employee, as part of the employee’s official duties, to become familiar with eligibility requirements, application procedures and other information about the public service loan forgiveness program and to provide assistance to other employees who request assistance with determining the employees’ eligibility for and applications to the public service loan forgiveness program.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2021
 Filed in the office of Secretary of State June 14, 2021
 Effective date September 25, 2021