

SUBJECT: Amending eligibility requirements for teacher loan repayment program

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Burns, Clardy, Cole, Howard, Lalani, Raney

0 nays

3 absent — Bucy, Burrows, M. González

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Will Holleman, Raise Your Hand Texas)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Under Education Code sec. 61.9839(a), an eligible person may continue to receive loan repayment assistance if the person continues to teach in a public school that receives certain federal funding after the first four years of required teaching service.

Some have suggested that certain requirements based on a teacher's place of employment should be amended for the Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program to help address teacher shortages.

DIGEST: HB 2672 would specify that, under certain conditions, a person eligible for the Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program could continue to receive the same amount of loan repayment assistance received during the first four consecutive years of required teaching service if the person continued to teach in any public school, rather than only those that received federal funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, in accordance with board rules for the prescribed number of consecutive school years occurring immediately after the first four consecutive years of teaching service. The bill would make conforming changes throughout.

The bill would remove certain provisions regarding repayment based on

continued employment at an eligible school.

As soon as practicable after the effective date of the bill, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would be required to adopt rules to administer these changes.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply to a loan payment assistance agreement entered into on or after the effective date of the bill.