

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

H. B. No. 663

Representative Lightbody

A BILL

To enact section 3319.58 of the Revised Code to 1
establish a loan repayment program for eligible 2
teachers. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3319.58 of the Revised Code be 4
enacted to read as follows: 5

Sec. 3319.58. (A) As used in this section: 6

(1) "Eligible teacher" means an individual who satisfies 7
all of the following conditions: 8

(a) The individual is an Ohio resident. 9

(b) The individual holds a valid educator license issued 10
under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code to provide instruction 11
in grades seven through twelve. 12

(c) The individual is employed full-time for the first 13
time as a classroom teacher. 14

(d) The individual received a bachelor's degree awarded by 15
any public or private institution of higher education in this 16
state. 17

(e) The individual has outstanding student loans for the degree described in division (A) (1) (d) of this section. 18
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(f) The individual has made timely payments in accordance with the terms of the individual's repayment schedule for the outstanding student loans described in division (A) (1) (e) of this section. 20
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(2) "Qualifying school" means a school building operated by a school district, a community school established under Chapter 3314., a STEM school established under Chapter 3326., or a college-preparatory boarding school established under Chapter 3328. of the Revised Code to which the department of education and the chancellor of higher education jointly determine that both of the following applies: 24
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(a) The school building has persistently low performance ratings on its state report card under section 3302.03 or 3314.017 of the Revised Code. 31
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(b) The school building has difficulty attracting and retaining classroom teachers who provide instruction in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics and hold a valid educator license issued under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code to provide instruction in grades seven through twelve. 34
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(B) The department of education and the chancellor of higher education jointly shall establish and administer a teacher loan repayment program. Under the program, the department shall pay the amount specified in division (C) of this section to repay outstanding student loans described in division (A) (1) (e) of this section on behalf of the eligible teacher, if the teacher applies to receive an award under the program upon being employed by a qualifying school and 39
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subsequently is employed by that school in a position providing 47
instruction for five consecutive school years in science, 48
technology, engineering, or mathematics to students enrolled in 49
any of grades seven through twelve. An eligible teacher shall 50
receive only one award under the program. The department shall 51
make a payment directly to the eligible teacher's lender. 52

(C) The amount for each award under the program shall be 53
the lesser of forty thousand dollars or the total amount of the 54
outstanding student loans described in division (A)(1)(e) of the 55
section for an eligible teacher who meets the requirement 56
prescribed in division (B) of this section. 57

(D) The department and the chancellor jointly shall adopt 58
rules to administer the program. 59

(E) The teacher loan repayment fund is hereby created in 60
the state treasury, to consist of such amounts designated for 61
the purposes of the fund by the general assembly. The fund shall 62
be used to make awards under the program established under this 63
section. 64

(F) The program established under this section shall cease 65
to accept new applications under division (B) of this section on 66
the date that is five calendar years after the effective date of 67
this section. The program also shall cease to operate on the 68
date that is ten calendar years after the effective date of this 69
section. 70

Section 2. On the effective date of this section, or as 71
soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and 72
Management shall transfer \$25,000,000 cash from the General 73
Revenue Fund to the Teacher Loan Repayment Program Fund (Fund 74
5W00) created in section 3319.58 of the Revised Code. 75