

AMENDMENTS TO LB1218

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM2213)

Introduced by Linehan, 39.

1 1. Strike sections 1 to 8 and insert the following new sections:

2 Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and may be  
3 cited as the Teach in Nebraska Today Act.

4 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Teach in Nebraska Today Act:

5 (1) Default has the same meaning as in 20 U.S.C. 1085, as such  
6 section existed on January 1, 2022;

7 (2) Department means the State Department of Education;

8 (3) Program means the Teach in Nebraska Today Program created in  
9 section 3 of this act;

10 (4) Teacher aid means and includes:

11 (a) Student loan repayment assistance provided pursuant to  
12 subsection (2) of section 6 of this act; and

13 (b) Stipends provided pursuant to subsection (3) of section 6 of  
14 this act; and

15 (5) Teaching full-time means (a) teaching an average of at least  
16 four hours per contract day performing instructional duties as a full-  
17 time employee of an approved or accredited public, private,  
18 denominational, or parochial school in this state or (b) teaching an  
19 average of at least four hours per contract day performing dual-credit  
20 instructional duties for students of approved or accredited public,  
21 private, denominational, or parochial schools in this state while  
22 employed full-time at an accredited public or private nonprofit college  
23 or university in this state.

24 Sec. 3. The Teach in Nebraska Today Program is created. The  
25 department shall administer the program. The purpose of the program is to  
26 attract individuals to the teaching profession who have expressed an

1 interest in teaching and to support the employment of those individuals  
2 as classroom teachers by providing teacher aid for service as a classroom  
3 teacher in this state.

4 Sec. 4. (1) Teacher aid under the program shall be available to an  
5 individual who applies for the aid and who:

6 (a) Is a resident of the State of Nebraska; and

7 (b) Is teaching full-time or has a contract to teach full-time at  
8 the time of application for the program.

9 (2) The amount of teacher aid awarded to an eligible applicant  
10 pursuant to this section shall be limited to five thousand dollars per  
11 year. An eligible applicant may be awarded teacher aid for up to five  
12 years. The five years of awards are not required to be consecutive but  
13 shall not extend beyond eight years in total.

14 (3) If the funds available for teacher aid in any year are  
15 insufficient to provide aid to all eligible applicants described in  
16 subsection (1) of this section, the department shall establish priorities  
17 for awarding teacher aid with renewal applications given priority over  
18 initial applications. For initial applications, priority shall be given  
19 as follows:

20 (a) First priority shall be given to applicants who (i) have no more  
21 than one year of full-time teaching experience and (ii) demonstrate  
22 financial need;

23 (b) Second priority shall be given to applicants who (i) have no  
24 more than one year of full-time teaching experience and (ii) do not  
25 demonstrate financial need;

26 (c) Third priority shall be given to applicants who (i) have more  
27 than one year but no more than three years of full-time teaching  
28 experience and (ii) demonstrate financial need; and

29 (d) Fourth priority shall be given to applicants who (i) have more  
30 than one year but no more than three years of full-time teaching  
31 experience and (ii) do not demonstrate financial need.

1           Sec. 5. Applications for teacher aid must be submitted no later  
2 than June 10, 2023, and no later than June 10 of each year thereafter, on  
3 a form developed by the department. The department shall determine  
4 whether to approve or deny each application and shall notify each  
5 applicant of such determination no later than September 10, 2023, and no  
6 later than September 10 of each year thereafter. Teacher aid awarded  
7 under the program shall be paid, in whole or in part as provided in  
8 section 6 of this act, no later than November 10, 2023, and no later than  
9 November 10 of each year thereafter.

10           Sec. 6. (1) Teacher aid awarded under the program shall be paid as  
11 student loan repayment assistance pursuant to subsection (2) of this  
12 section or as a stipend pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The  
13 applicant shall select the method of payment on his or her application.

14           (2)(a) Student loan repayment assistance awarded under the program  
15 shall be paid in one of the following two ways as directed by the  
16 applicant on his or her application:

17           (i) Directly to the lender or loan servicer that holds the  
18 outstanding balance of the student loan in one lump-sum payment; or

19           (ii) Directly to the lender or loan servicer that holds the  
20 outstanding balance of the student loan in monthly payments. Such monthly  
21 payments shall be made:

22           (A) In twelve equal payments; or

23           (B) If requested by the applicant, in smaller amounts over a longer  
24 period of time, not to exceed twenty-four months. In such case, payments  
25 shall be equal for the first twelve months or until such time as the  
26 applicant's payment amount is recalculated by the lender or loan servicer  
27 and then, if adjusted, shall be equal for the next twelve-month period.

28 Any unpaid funds at the end of twenty-four months may be requested to be  
29 paid in a lump-sum payment to the lender or loan servicer or shall be  
30 considered forfeited by the applicant. Applicants who are awarded student  
31 loan repayment assistance in more than one year may have their awards

1 divided across no more than one hundred twenty monthly payments under the  
2 program.

3 (b) An eligible applicant may receive student loan repayment  
4 assistance under the program for the repayment of a student loan that was  
5 received through any lender and that was incurred in the applicant's own  
6 name for his or her own educational expenses at any accredited public or  
7 private nonprofit college or university in this state or any other state.  
8 If the loan is not a state or federal guaranteed student loan, the note  
9 or other writing governing the terms of the loan must require the loan  
10 proceeds to be used for expenses incurred by the applicant to attend an  
11 accredited public or private nonprofit college or university in this  
12 state or any other state.

13 (c) Student loan repayment assistance awarded under the program may  
14 be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to interest that  
15 accrues.

16 (d) The department may contract with a third-party vendor to  
17 administer the student loan repayment assistance provided pursuant to  
18 this subsection.

19 (3) Stipends awarded under the program shall be paid directly to the  
20 applicant and may be used for the applicant's living expenses. Stipends  
21 shall only be available if the applicant is not in default on any student  
22 loan at the time of application.

23 Sec. 7. The total amount of teacher aid awarded pursuant to the  
24 program shall not exceed five million dollars in any fiscal year.

25 Sec. 8. The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules  
26 and regulations to carry out the Teach in Nebraska Today Act.

27 2. On page 14, strike lines 9 through 12 and insert the following  
28 new subsection:

29 "(18) There shall be subtracted from the federal adjusted gross  
30 income of individuals any amount received by the individual as teacher  
31 aid under the Teach in Nebraska Today Act, to the extent such amount is

1 included in federal adjusted gross income. For purposes of this  
2 subsection, teacher aid has the same meaning as in section 2 of this  
3 act."