



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 359
[2015 Assembly Bill 793]

Teacher Loan Program

BACKGROUND

The Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) administers a teacher loan program for students who meet certain eligibility criteria, including enrollment in a program of study located in Wisconsin that leads to a teacher's license in a field identified as a teacher shortage area. HEAB may award an eligible student a loan of up to \$10,000 annually for a maximum of three years at a 5% interest rate.

HEAB must forgive 25% of the loan for each school year that the loan recipient: (1) is employed full-time in the City of Milwaukee as a public or private elementary or secondary school teacher in a high-demand teacher shortage field; and (2) receives a teacher rating of proficient or distinguished.

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 359

Act 359 expands the potential for loan forgiveness to loan recipients who are employed full-time in school districts in rural counties as public and private elementary and secondary school teachers in high-demand teacher shortage fields. Under the Act, a county is rural if: (1) it does not include an urbanized area; (2) fewer than 25% of its residents are employed in another county that includes an urbanized area; and (3) fewer than 25% of the people employed in the county reside in another county that includes an urbanized area.

Effective date: Act 359 takes effect on April 16, 2016, and first applies to loan recipients whose employment as a full-time teacher begins on that date.

Prepared by: Rachel E. Snyder, Staff Attorney

April 15, 2016

RES:mcm;jal

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.