



## 2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 234

April 28, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives SORTWELL, ARMSTRONG, BEHNKE, BROOKS, DONOVAN, GREEN, KITCHENS, MURSAU and SUBECK, cosponsored by Senators COWLES and FELZKOWSKI. Referred to Committee on Education.

1     **AN ACT to create** 20.235 (1) (cp) and 39.396 of the statutes; **relating to:** a school  
2             psychologist loan program, and making an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill creates a school psychologist loan program to be administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) for students who meet certain eligibility criteria, including enrollment at an institution of higher education in a program of study leading to a school psychologist career. Under the program, HEAB may award to an eligible student a loan of up to \$10,000 annually for up to three years. HEAB must forgive 25 percent of the loan for each school year that the recipient is employed as a school psychologist in an urbanized county or rural area, as defined in the bill. "School psychologist" is defined in the bill as a licensed psychologist who practices in a school-based setting or an individual who is licensed as a school psychologist under rules promulgated by the Department of Public Instruction.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

3             **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
4             the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

**2023-24**

**2024-25**

1 **20.235 Higher Educational Aids Board**

2 (1) STUDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

3 (cp) School psychologist loan pro-

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5 **SECTION 2.** 20.235 (1) (cp) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.235 (1) (cp) *School psychologist loan program.* The amounts in the schedule  
7 for the school psychologist loan program under s. 39.396.

8 **SECTION 3.** 39.396 of the statutes is created to read:

9 **39.396 School psychologist loan program.** (1) In this section:

10 (a) "Rural county" means a county that satisfies all of the following:

11 1. The county does not include any urbanized area.

12 2. Less than 25 percent of persons residing in the county are employed in  
13 another county that includes an urbanized area.

14 3. Less than 25 percent of persons employed in the county reside in another  
15 county that includes an urbanized area.

16 (b) "School psychologist" means a psychologist licensed under s. 455.04 (1) or  
17 (2) who practices in a school-based setting, or an individual who is licensed as a  
18 school psychologist under rules promulgated by the department of public  
19 instruction.

20 (b) "Urbanized area" has the meaning given in 23 USC 134 (b) (7).

21 **(2)** The board shall establish a school psychologist loan program for students  
22 who meet all of the following requirements:

