

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE QUALITY EDUCATOR
5 LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; REVISING THE TIMING OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF
6 PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE PROGRAM; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-4-503, MCA."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9
10 **Section 1.** Section 20-4-503, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"20-4-503. Critical quality educator shortage areas -- impacted schools.** (1) The board of public
12 education, in consultation with the office of public instruction, shall:

- 13 (a) maintain and make publicly available a current list of impacted schools; and
- 14 (b) based on reporting by impacted schools or school districts in which impacted schools are located,
15 identify within each impacted school, critical quality educator shortage areas under 20-4-502(1)(a). The board
16 of public education shall also establish a process for impacted schools to report and qualify, no later than 5
17 days after submission of a written report on a form developed by the board, a current vacancy for a critical
18 quality educator shortage area under the criteria set forth in 20-4-502(1)(b). Critical quality educator shortage
19 areas qualifying under 20-4-502(1)(b) are eligible for loan repayment assistance independent of the report
20 under subsection (2) of this section.

21 (2) The board of public education shall publish by ~~December~~ February 1 an annual report listing the
22 critical quality educator shortage areas under 20-4-502(1)(a) in each impacted school. The report must apply to
23 the school year that begins July 1 following the publication of the report in order to assist recruitment by
24 impacted schools. ~~For the school year beginning July 1, 2019, eligibility for the program based on the criteria~~
25 ~~under 20-4-502(1)(a) must be governed by the report adopted by the board of public education by December 1,~~
26 ~~2019.~~

27 (3) A quality educator working at an impacted school in a critical quality educator shortage area is
28 eligible for repayment of all or part of the quality educator's outstanding educational loans existing at the time of

1 application in accordance with the eligibility and award criteria established under this part. If a quality educator
2 is eligible for loan assistance and remains employed in the same impacted school or another impacted school
3 within the same school district and in the same critical quality educator shortage area for which the quality
4 educator was originally eligible, the quality educator remains eligible for up to 3 years of state-funded loan
5 repayment assistance and an additional 1 year of loan repayment assistance funded by the impacted school or
6 the district under which the impacted school is operated pursuant to 20-4-504(2). Both state-funded and locally
7 funded loan repayment assistance under this section ~~is~~are exempt from taxation as specified in 15-30-
8 2110(14)."

9 - END -