

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7761

To provide for student loan forgiveness for public service workers whose employment may have been affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DEAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To provide for student loan forgiveness for public service workers whose employment may have been affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Access to
5 Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants During the
6 COVID–19 Pandemic Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) EMPLOYMENT DISRUPTION.—The term
4 “employment disruption” means a lapse in an indi-
5 vidual’s employment that is related to the novel
6 coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID–19), such as a
7 furlough or reduction in force by the employer or the
8 individual’s resignation due to illness or family
9 caregiving responsibilities.

10 (2) PUBLIC SERVICE JOB.—The term “public
11 service job” has the meaning given the term in sec-
12 tion 455(m)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
13 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)).

14 (3) QUALIFYING EMERGENCY.—The term
15 “qualifying emergency” has the meaning given the
16 term in section 3502 of division A of the
17 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
18 (Public Law 116–136).

19 (4) QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL.—The term
20 “qualifying individual” means an individual who—

21 (A) has a loan that qualifies for public
22 service loan forgiveness under section 455(m) of
23 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
24 1087e(m)); and

25 (B) during the qualifying emergency pe-
26 riod—

1 (i) was employed in a public service
2 job; and

3 (ii) experiences an employment dis-
4 ruption with respect to the public service
5 job and no longer is employed in a public
6 service job.

7 (b) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), during
8 the qualifying emergency, a monthly payment made by a
9 qualifying individual pursuant to a repayment plan listed
10 in section 455(m)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(1)(A)) (including a payment
12 deemed under section 3513(c) of the Coronavirus Aid, Re-
13 lief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) to
14 have been made pursuant to such a repayment plan) shall
15 be deemed to be a monthly payment made by an individual
16 employed in a public service job for purposes of the public
17 service loan forgiveness program under section 455(m) of
18 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)).

19 (c) SPECIAL RULE.—Subsection (b) shall only apply
20 to a qualifying individual who resumes employment in any
21 public service job by the date that is 6 months after the
22 last day of the qualifying emergency, except that any
23 qualifying individual who, as a result of the application
24 of subsection (b), would have completed the requirements
25 for loan cancellation under section 455(m)(2) of the High-

1 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(2)) during
2 the qualifying emergency, shall receive such loan cancella-
3 tion without any required resumption of public service job
4 employment.

5 (d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 60 days after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education
7 shall develop and make available guidance for qualifying
8 individuals regarding the assistance available under this
9 section, including a description of any documentation such
10 an individual shall provide to the Secretary to confirm
11 whether the individual’s lapse in employment meets the
12 definition of employment disruption.

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