
HOUSE BILL 1643

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Ortiz-Self, Senn, and Lovick

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a loan forgiveness program for
2 teachers in high-need schools; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Teachers in Washington are currently leaving the teaching
6 profession at higher rates than have been seen in Washington in the
7 past decade, and at rates that are higher than the national average.
8 Unless additional incentives are provided, the attrition rates for
9 teachers will continue, especially in hard to fill subject areas and
10 locations; and

11 (b) The federal government provides loan forgiveness for teachers
12 teaching in Title I schools. However, there are teachers who do not
13 qualify for the federal program.

14 (2) In order to attract and retain teachers in high-need schools,
15 the legislature intends to pay off the outstanding federal loan
16 balances of teachers who have taught full-time for five consecutive
17 years in specific subject matter shortage areas, such as English
18 language learner and special education programs, and in specific
19 geographic areas, such as rural and remote areas. This high-need
20 teacher loan forgiveness program is intended to increase the number
21 of individuals recruited to high-need schools and subject areas

1 within targeted geographic regions in Washington; and to decrease the
2 number of teachers leaving these high-need areas. Specifically,
3 support in the form of loan forgiveness is aimed at individuals who
4 are unsure about their ability to afford to become a teacher, and
5 individuals who come from traditionally underrepresented groups.

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