

AMENDMENTS TO LB842

Introduced by Davis

1           1. Insert the following new sections:

2           Sec. 2. Section 79-8,137.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
3 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

4           79-8,137.03 (1) The department shall administer the  
5 Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program either directly or by  
6 contracting with public or private entities.

7           (2) To be eligible for the program, an eligible student  
8 shall:

9           (a) Agree to complete an eligible graduate program at  
10 an eligible institution and to complete the major on which the  
11 applicant's eligibility is based as determined by the department;  
12 and

13           (b) Commit to teach in an accredited or approved public  
14 or private school in Nebraska upon successful completion of the  
15 eligible graduate program for which the applicant is applying to  
16 the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program and to maintaining  
17 certification pursuant to sections 79-806 to 79-815.

18           (3) Eligible students may apply on an annual basis for  
19 loans in an amount of not more than ~~one hundred seventy-five~~  
20 two hundred fifty dollars per credit hour. Loans awarded to  
21 individual students shall not exceed a cumulative period exceeding  
22 five consecutive years. Loans shall only be awarded through the  
23 department. Loans shall be funded pursuant to section 79-8,137.05.

1           Sec. 3. Section 79-8,137.04, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
2 2013, is amended to read:

3           79-8,137.04 (1) Prior to receiving any money from a  
4 loan pursuant to the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program, an  
5 eligible student shall enter into a contract with the department.  
6 Such contract shall provide notice to the eligible student that  
7 funding for loans pursuant to the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching  
8 Program terminates on June 30, 2016. Such contract shall be exempt  
9 from the requirements of sections 73-501 to 73-510. The contract  
10 shall require that if (a) the borrower is not employed as a  
11 full-time teacher teaching in an approved or accredited school in  
12 Nebraska for a time period equal to the number of years required  
13 for loan forgiveness pursuant to subsection (2) of this section or  
14 (b) the borrower does not complete the requirements for graduation  
15 within five consecutive years after receiving the initial loan  
16 under the program, then the loan shall be repaid, with interest  
17 at the rate fixed pursuant to section 45-103 accruing as of the  
18 date the borrower signed the contract and actual collection costs  
19 as determined by the department. If a borrower fails to remain  
20 enrolled at an eligible institution or otherwise fails to meet  
21 the requirements of an eligible student, repayment of the loan  
22 shall commence within six months after such change in eligibility.  
23 The State Board of Education may by rules and regulations provide  
24 for exceptions to the conditions of repayment pursuant to this  
25 subsection based upon mitigating circumstances.

26           (2) If the borrower (a) successfully completes the  
27 eligible graduate program and major for which the borrower is

1 receiving a forgivable loan pursuant to the Enhancing Excellence in  
2 Teaching Program and maintains certification pursuant to sections  
3 79-806 to 79-815, (b) maintains employment as a teacher in an  
4 approved or accredited school in this state, and (c) otherwise  
5 meets the requirements of the contract, payments shall be suspended  
6 for the number of years that the borrower is required to remain  
7 employed as a teacher in this state under the contract. Beginning  
8 ~~after the first two years~~ with the second year of teaching  
9 full-time in Nebraska following graduation for the degree for which  
10 the loan was received, for each year that the borrower teaches  
11 full-time in Nebraska pursuant to the contract, the loan shall be  
12 forgiven in an amount equal to three thousand dollars, except that  
13 if the borrower teaches full-time in a school district that is  
14 in a local system classified as very sparse as defined in section  
15 79-1003, teaches in a school building in which at least forty  
16 percent of the students are poverty students as defined in section  
17 79-1003, or teaches in an accredited or approved private school in  
18 Nebraska in which at least forty percent of the enrolled students  
19 qualified for free lunches as determined by the most recent data  
20 available from the department, payments shall be forgiven each year  
21 in an amount equal to six thousand dollars.

22           2. Renumber the remaining sections and amend the repealer  
23 accordingly.