

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB527

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: March 16, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 527 would amend provisions of the two programs under the Excellence in Teaching Act. The Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program provides forgivable loans to students who are working toward their initial teaching certificate. The Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program provides forgivable loans to certificated teachers who are seeking qualifying graduate degrees. The changes in the proposal would remove required contract language giving notice that funding for the programs terminates on June 30, 2016. The terms for loan forgiveness would also be modified for loans given on or after July 1, 2016. The new terms would allow the forgiveness to begin earlier and, for the Enhancing Excellence loans, would change the amount that would be forgiven each year. The maximum loan amount for the Enhancing Excellence loans would also be increased. Provisions are also added to distribute funds above the current \$1.2 million maximum between the two programs. Terminology in the purposes for the programs would also be clarified.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Sullivan