

Amendment: PE3

Representative Whitmire proposes the following amendment:

Department of Education / Section 1A – H630

Amend further:

1A.72. (SDE-EIA: Teacher Loan Program) Of the available funds in the Teacher Loan Program revolving account administered by the SC Student Loan Corporation, up to \$5,000,000 shall be made available through a program administered by the Student Loan Corporation to assist in refinancing student loan debt for all certified teachers employed in the public schools of the State. An additional \$5,000,000 from the revolving loan account will be made available to teachers in rural school districts for loan forgiveness patterned after the SC Teacher Loan ~~in the following school districts based on the number of teacher vacancies and/or the number of teachers of record uncertified in the subject area in which they are teaching: Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun, Jasper, Lee, and McCormick school districts that show a vacancy rate of ten percent or greater based on the 2024-25 Teacher Supply and Demand Report~~ Program. The Department of Education will identify the rural school districts for inclusion in loan forgiveness using data that documents the difficulty of the districts in recruiting and retaining certified teachers. The Student Loan Corporation must have both programs operational by the end of the fiscal year.