

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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| Action: | Do Pass |
| Vote: | 5 - 0 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | 0 |
| Prepared By: | Linda Lindholm, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 3/15 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides method of determining type of school where teacher teaches for purpose of federal loan forgiveness programs offered to teachers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Parameters of federal teacher loan forgiveness programs
- Revised definitions of secondary school to fit federal program eligibility requirements
- Reapplication and retroactive forgiveness of teacher loans

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue in the teaching profession. Under the program, individuals who teach full time for five consecutive academic years in elementary and secondary schools that serve low-income families and meet other qualifications may be eligible for forgiveness of some of the principal and interest on their education loans.

Oregon middle school teachers who applied for Teacher Loan Forgiveness were denied the increased secondary school amounts. This ineligibility for forgiveness is because the Oregon Department of Education does not currently consider middle school to be secondary school for the purpose of Teacher Loan Forgiveness. Senate Bill 670, for the purpose of federal loan forgiveness, classifies a secondary school as one that offers instructions in grades 6 through 12 or kindergarten through 12, if the teacher is employed to teach any grade from grade 6 through 12. This act allows Oregon teachers who teach middle school, and are otherwise qualified, to be eligible for federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness.

3/17/2011 9:10:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.