

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 618

Representative Sweeney

A BILL

To enact section 124.041 of the Revised Code to
require the distribution of information
regarding the U.S. Public Service Loan
Forgiveness Program to public servants, to
establish the Navigator Pilot Program to assist
public servants in navigating the U.S. Public
Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and to make an
appropriation.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 124.041 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

9
10

Sec. 124.041. (A) As used in this section:

11

(1) "Public service organization" has the same meaning as
in 34 C.F.R. 685.219.

12
13

(2) "Employment certification form" means the form used by
the United States department of education to certify an
individual's employment at a public service organization for the
purposes of the public service loan forgiveness program.

14
15
16
17

(3) "Public service loan forgiveness program" means the

18

loan forgiveness program established under 20 U.S.C. 1087e(m). 19

(4) "Teacher loan forgiveness program" means a loan 20
forgiveness program established under 20 U.S.C. 1078-10. 21

(B) The director of administrative services shall create 22
and distribute informational materials regarding the public 23
service loan forgiveness program and teacher loan forgiveness 24
program to public service organizations. Informational materials 25
shall be published on the department of administrative services' 26
web site and updated each year. Beginning thirty days after the 27
effective date of this section, informational materials shall 28
include, but not be limited to, all of the following: 29

(1) A letter to notify public employees of the eligibility 30
requirements of the public service and teacher loan forgiveness 31
programs and to recommend that public employees contact a 32
student loan servicer for additional information; 33

(2) A fact sheet that outlines the public service and 34
teacher loan forgiveness programs and contains contact 35
information for the director; 36

(3) Frequently asked questions and their answers 37
concerning the public service and teacher loan forgiveness 38
programs; 39

(4) Any document published by a federal agency regarding 40
student loan forgiveness as determined by the director. 41

(C) (1) A public service organization shall post the fact 42
sheet described under division (B) (2) of this section in a 43
conspicuous location on its premises and provide both of the 44
following to its employees: 45

(a) The informational materials described under division 46

(B) of this section not later than two weeks after an employee's 47
start date; 48

(b) A link to the United States public service loan 49
forgiveness program's official web site. 50

(2) Upon an employee's request, a public service 51
organization shall provide a copy of the employment 52
certification form. 53

Section 2. (A) The Navigator Pilot Program is hereby 54
established to assist public employees in applying for and 55
navigating the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program 56
established under 20 U.S.C. 1087e(m). 57

(B) Beginning on the effective date of this section and 58
extending until July 1, 2022, the Director of Administrative 59
Services shall solicit contracts from outside organizations or 60
individuals who have demonstrated experience with student debt 61
forgiveness to assist in the administration of the Program 62
established under division (A) of this section as determined by 63
the Director. The Director shall negotiate the terms of the 64
contracts so that they are effective from July 1, 2022, or as 65
soon thereafter as possible, until June 30, 2023. The contract 66
prices shall be paid with funds appropriated by the General 67
Assembly specifically for that purpose. 68

(C) Beginning on the effective date of this section, the 69
Navigator Pilot Program shall operate in collaboration with a 70
community college, a state university, and a public agency or 71
employer whose employees may qualify for the Public Service Loan 72
Forgiveness Program as selected by the Director of 73
Administrative Services. 74

(D) Beginning not later than sixty days after the 75

effective date of this section, contracted organizations or 76
individuals shall assist the Director of Administrative Services 77
and the selected college, university, and public agency or 78
employer with all of the following: 79

(1) Advising public employees on completion of the 80
employment certification form used by the United States 81
Department of Education for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness 82
Program; 83

(2) Disseminating information to public employees 84
regarding any other loan forgiveness programs for which they may 85
qualify; 86

(3) Assisting public employees in understanding their 87
rights and responsibilities under the terms of student education 88
loans. 89

(E) Not later than October 31, 2023, the Director of 90
Administrative Services shall submit a report to the General 91
Assembly, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, 92
and the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the 93
implementation and outcomes of the Navigator Pilot Program to 94
determine if it should operate permanently and any 95
recommendations that may assist student loan borrowers. 96

Section 3. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 97
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 98
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 99
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 100
2022 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2023. 101
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 102
any other operating appropriations made for the FY 2022-FY 2023 103
biennium. 104

					105
	1	2	3	4	5
A	DAS DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	100506	Navigator Pilot Program	\$0	\$200,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$0	\$200,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$0	\$200,000
	NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM				
	The foregoing appropriation item 100506, Navigator Pilot				
	Program, shall be used to contract with outside organizations or				
	individuals for the purposes of the Navigator Pilot Program				
	established in Section 2 of this act to assist public employees				
	with applying to and navigating the federal Public Service Loan				
	Forgiveness Program.				
	Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the				
	Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts				
	indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation				
	made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in				
	which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures				
	from operating appropriations contained in this act shall be				
	accounted for as though made in the main operating				
	appropriations act of the 134th General Assembly. The operating				
	appropriations made in this act are subject to all provisions of				
	the main operating appropriations act of the 134th General				
	Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations.				