

House Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Members Williams and John A. Pérez

September 3, 2013

House Resolution No. 26—Relative to student loan forgiveness.

1 WHEREAS, The State of California is committed to improving
2 the affordability and accessibility of the state’s higher education
3 systems, thus preserving the opportunity for Californians to receive
4 a world-class public education; and

5 WHEREAS, This commitment was demonstrated by the
6 inclusion of the Middle Class Scholarship Act (MCSA) in the
7 2013-14 Budget Act, which will reduce fees at the University of
8 California and California State University by up to 40 percent for
9 middle class families; and

10 WHEREAS, The success of California’s community college
11 and university systems is essential to educating and training the
12 workforce needed to continue the recovery and growth of the
13 world’s eighth largest economy and for the businesses in our state
14 to compete and innovate in a global, 21st century economy; and

15 WHEREAS, The Assembly celebrates the importance of public
16 service and its value to our society, and is dedicated to ensuring
17 that the desire to contribute to public service is not forgone because
18 of financial limitations brought about by student loan debt; and

19 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest body of public
20 employees in the country that serves a growing population of 38
21 million; therefore, California has the greatest potential to encourage
22 participation in, and benefit from, programs attracting educated
23 and talented individuals who want to enter public service; and

1 WHEREAS, California state government administers successful
2 student debt relief programs such as the Assumption Program of
3 Loans for Education for teachers, the State Nursing Assumption
4 Program of Loans for Education for nurses, the Steven M.
5 Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program, and
6 partnerships with AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education created
8 its Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program in 2007 with
9 the goal of helping those burdened by student loan debt that have
10 dedicated their careers to various areas of public service; and

11 WHEREAS, The PSLF Program offers full student loan
12 forgiveness upon fulfillment of a 10-year Repayment Plan or
13 completion of 120 regular payments through its Direct Loan
14 Program, which offers both Income-Based Repayment and
15 Income-Contingent Repayment options that are beneficial to
16 employees with a wide range of salaries; and

17 WHEREAS, The PSLF Program stands to benefit many
18 California public employees in fields such as K-12 education,
19 health care, law enforcement, military service, emergency
20 management, public safety, human services, and library services,
21 among others; and

22 WHEREAS, This federal loan forgiveness program incentivizes
23 college attendance, increases college affordability, and builds
24 partnerships between California universities and public institutions;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, This resolution reaffirms California’s commitment
27 to maintaining college affordability and accessibility as well as
28 public service; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
30 Assembly encourages public employers to take full advantage of
31 the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and other available
32 programs that are intended to help college graduates that have
33 incurred student loan debt in their pursuit of a degree; and be it
34 further

35 *Resolved,* That the Assembly intends to add its support to the
36 Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program by offering relevant
37 information to all new and current employees; and be it further

38 *Resolved,* That the Assembly seek opportunities to promote
39 policies that will provide more loan repayment options to graduates
40 burdened by student loan debt, so that they can gain meaningful

1 employment that enhances their individual financial stability as
2 well as benefits the state as a whole; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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