

HB 2576 -- PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS

SPONSOR: Dogan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Higher Education, on or before January 1, 2017, to create guidance, as specified in the bill, regarding notice of public employee eligibility for public service loan forgiveness. On or before April 1, 2017, the governing body of each public employer will adopt a policy that provides up-to-date, accurate, and complete information to each new district employee, within 10 days of the start of employment, regarding eligibility. Such employers will be required to provide current employees with the same information on or before June 30, 2017.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that student loans are becoming a factor for teachers starting out and for others. This bill would help bring about a commonsense rule that will benefit employees by providing them with notification about public service loan forgiveness.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan; Missouri NEA; and the Missouri Council Of School Administrators.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this is a notification bill and should be a fairly simple process in terms of getting the information together and sending it out.

Testifying on the bill was Leroy Wade, Missouri Department of Higher Education.