

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a student loan forgiveness plan for certain borrowers who are employed at a qualified farm or ranch.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To establish a student loan forgiveness plan for certain borrowers who are employed at a qualified farm or ranch.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Student Loan Forgive-  
5 ness for Farmers and Ranchers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR FARMERS AND RANCH-**  
7 **ERS.**

8       (a) AMENDMENT TO THE HEA.—Part D of title IV  
9 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a  
10 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 460A. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR FARMERS AND**  
2 **RANCHERS.**

3 “(a) QUALIFIED FARM OR RANCH.—In this section,  
4 the term ‘qualified farm or ranch’ means a farm or ranch  
5 with a farm number (within the meaning given the term  
6 in section 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations,  
7 as in effect on the date of enactment of the Student Loan  
8 Forgiveness for Farmers and Ranchers Act).

9 “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall cancel the  
10 balance of interest and principal due, in accordance with  
11 subsection (c), on any eligible Federal Direct Loan not  
12 in default for a borrower who—

13 “(1) at the time of initial entrance into the ag-  
14 ricultural student loan forgiveness program—

15 “(A) is—

16 “(i) employed full-time or part-time as  
17 farmer or rancher with an AD-20347 form  
18 on file with the Department of Agriculture  
19 that is current on the date of the initial  
20 entrance; or

21 “(ii) employed full-time or part-time  
22 as an employee or manager of a qualified  
23 farm or ranch; and

24 “(B) is—

25 “(i) a beginning farmer or rancher (as  
26 defined under section 343(a) of the Con-

1 consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
2 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a));

3 “(ii) an individual from a population  
4 that is underrepresented in the agricultural  
5 profession (as determined by the Sec-  
6 retary), such as minorities or women;

7 “(iii) a socially disadvantaged farmer  
8 or rancher (as defined in section 355(e) of  
9 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
10 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)); or

11 “(iv) a veteran farmer or rancher (as  
12 defined in section 2501(a) of the Food,  
13 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act  
14 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a));

15 “(2) makes 120 monthly payments on the eligi-  
16 ble Federal Direct Loan after the date of enactment  
17 of the Student Loan Forgiveness for Farmers and  
18 Ranchers Act, pursuant to any one or a combination  
19 of—

20 “(A) payments under an income-based re-  
21 payment plan under section 493C;

22 “(B) payments under a standard repay-  
23 ment plan under section 455(d)(1)(A), based on  
24 a 10-year repayment period;

1           “(C) monthly payments under a repayment  
2           plan under subsection (d)(1) or (g) of section  
3           455 of not less than the monthly amount cal-  
4           culated under section 455(d)(1)(A), based on a  
5           10-year repayment period; or

6           “(D) payments under an income contin-  
7           gent repayment plan under section  
8           455(d)(1)(D);

9           “(3) is employed full-time as an employee or  
10          manager of a qualified farm or ranch at the time of  
11          such forgiveness; and

12          “(4) has been employed full-time as an em-  
13          ployee or manager of a qualified farm or ranch dur-  
14          ing the period in which the borrower makes each of  
15          the qualifying payments described in paragraph (2).

16          “(c) LOAN CANCELLATION AMOUNT.—After the con-  
17          clusion of the employment period described in subsection  
18          (b), the Secretary shall cancel the obligation to repay the  
19          balance of principal and interest due as of the time of such  
20          cancellation, on the eligible Federal Direct Loans made  
21          to the borrower under this part.

22          “(d) REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM.—

23                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
24          the Secretary shall remove a borrower from the agri-

1 cultural student loan forgiveness program if the bor-  
2 rower—

3 “(A) was less than 40 years old when the  
4 borrower entered the agricultural student loan  
5 forgiveness program, and that borrower fails to  
6 be employed full-time as an employee or man-  
7 ager of a qualified farm or ranch for a cumu-  
8 lative period of more than 7 years after enter-  
9 ing the program; or

10 “(B) was 40 years old or older when the  
11 borrower entered the agricultural student loan  
12 forgiveness program, and that borrower fails to  
13 be employed full-time as an employee or man-  
14 ager of a qualified farm or ranch for a cumu-  
15 lative period of more than 3 years after enter-  
16 ing the program.

17 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR MILITARY SERVICE.—The  
18 Secretary shall not consider any of the following as  
19 a period of time counting toward removal from the  
20 agricultural student loan forgiveness program for  
21 purposes of paragraph (1):

22 “(A) Time serving on active duty during a  
23 war or other military operation or national  
24 emergency.

1           “(B) Time performing qualifying National  
2           Guard duty during a war or other military op-  
3           eration or national emergency.

4           “(C) The 180-day period following the de-  
5           mobilization date for the service described in  
6           subparagraph (A) or (B).

7           “(3) READMISSION PROHIBITED.—The Sec-  
8           retary shall not allow a borrower who has been re-  
9           moved from the agricultural student loan forgiveness  
10          program under this section to be readmitted to the  
11          program, unless the Secretary finds that the bor-  
12          rower has experienced exceptional circumstances.

13          “(e) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN.—The term  
14          ‘eligible Federal Direct Loan’ means a Federal Direct  
15          Stafford Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan, or Federal  
16          Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct  
17          Consolidation Loan.”.

18          (b) REGULATIONS.—Not more than 180 days after  
19          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Edu-  
20          cation, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture,  
21          shall promulgate final regulations to carry out the amend-  
22          ment made by subsection (a), including regulations relat-  
23          ing to the process of tracking and verifying work as an  
24          employee or manager of a qualified farm or ranch for pur-

1 poses of section 460A of the Higher Education Act of  
2 1965 (as added by this Act).