

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4736

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize student loan forgiveness for certain individuals employed in advanced energy professions.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2010

Mr. WILSON of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize student loan forgiveness for certain individuals employed in advanced energy professions.

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 “Energy Education  
5       Loan Forgiveness Act of 2010”.

6       **SEC. 2. ENERGY EDUCATION LOAN FORGIVENESS.**

7       Part B of title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
8       1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by inserting  
9       after section 428L the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 428M. ENERGY EDUCATION LOAN FORGIVENESS.**

2 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are—

3 “(1) to encourage individuals to enter and con-  
4 tinue in advanced energy professions; and

5 “(2) to reward such individuals for their service  
6 in advanced energy professions by reducing the bur-  
7 den of student loan debt.

8 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

9 “(1) LOAN FORGIVENESS AUTHORIZED.—The  
10 Secretary is authorized to forgive, in accordance  
11 with this section, the student loan obligation of a  
12 borrower, in the amount specified in subsection (c),  
13 who—

14 “(A) has been employed for at least one  
15 calendar year after the date of enactment of the  
16 Energy Education Loan Forgiveness Act of  
17 2010 as a full-time skilled energy worker  
18 trained in an industry that focuses on advanced  
19 energy (as defined in subsection (f)); and

20 “(B) is not in default on a loan for which  
21 the borrower seeks forgiveness.

22 “(2) METHOD OF LOAN FORGIVENESS.—To  
23 provide loan forgiveness under paragraph (1), the  
24 Secretary is authorized to carry out a program—

25 “(A) through the holder of the loan, to as-  
26 sume the obligation to repay a qualified loan

1 amount for a loan made, insured, or guaranteed  
2 under this part (other than an excepted PLUS  
3 loan (as such term is defined in section  
4 493C(a))); and

5 “(B) to cancel a qualified loan amount for  
6 a loan made under part D or part E of this  
7 title (other than such an excepted PLUS loan).

8 “(c) QUALIFIED LOAN AMOUNT.—The Secretary  
9 shall, from funds appropriated under subsection (h), for-  
10 give the loan obligation of a borrower in accordance with  
11 this section and in the following increments:

12 “(1) After the first calendar year of employ-  
13 ment described in subsection (b)(1), not more than  
14 \$2,000 of the loan obligation of the borrower that is  
15 outstanding after the completion of such calendar  
16 year.

17 “(2) After the second such year of employment,  
18 not more than \$2,500 of the loan obligation of the  
19 borrower that is outstanding after the completion of  
20 such year.

21 “(3) After the third such year of employment,  
22 not more than \$3,000 of the loan obligation of the  
23 borrower that is outstanding after the completion of  
24 such year.

1           “(4) After the fourth such year of employment,  
2           not more than \$4,500 of the loan obligation of the  
3           borrower that is outstanding after the completion of  
4           such year.

5           “(5) After the fifth such year of employment,  
6           not more than \$5,000 of the loan obligation of the  
7           borrower that is outstanding after the completion of  
8           such year.

9           “(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall grant loan for-  
10          giveness under this section on a first-come, first-served  
11          basis, and subject to the availability of appropriations.

12          “(e) INELIGIBILITY FOR DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No  
13          borrower may, for the same service, receive a reduction  
14          of loan obligations under both this section and section  
15          428K or 455(m).

16          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17                 “(1) ADVANCED ENERGY.—The term ‘advanced  
18                 energy’ shall have the meaning given such term by  
19                 the Secretary pursuant to subsection (g).

20                 “(2) INDUSTRY THAT FOCUSES ON ADVANCED  
21                 ENERGY.—The term ‘industry that focuses on ad-  
22                 vanced energy’ means an industry the primary pur-  
23                 pose of which is to develop, produce, and distribute  
24                 advanced energy (as defined by the Secretary in ac-

1 cordance with subsection (g)), and includes the fol-  
2 lowing industries:

3 “(A) Alternative energy, including wind  
4 and solar energy.

5 “(B) Nuclear energy.

6 “(C) Energy efficient construction, retro-  
7 fitting, and design.

8 “(D) Sustainable energy technologies, in-  
9 cluding chemical technology, nanotechnology,  
10 and electrical technology.

11 “(E) Water and energy conservation.

12 “(F) Recycling and waste reduction.

13 “(G) Advanced agriculture and farming.

14 “(H) Carbon sequestration and storage.

15 “(I) Natural gas drilling.

16 “(J) Clean coal production.

17 “(3) SKILLED ENERGY WORKER.—The term  
18 ‘skilled energy worker’ shall have the meaning given  
19 such term by the Secretary pursuant to subsection  
20 (g).

21 “(g) REGULATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized  
23 to issue such regulations as may be necessary to  
24 carry out this section.

1           “(2) CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF EN-  
2       ERGY.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Sec-  
3       retary of Energy to promulgate regulations to de-  
4       fine, for the purpose of awarding loan forgiveness  
5       under this section, the term ‘advanced energy’, the  
6       term ‘skilled energy worker’, and each of the cat-  
7       egories of industries that focus on advanced energy  
8       that are listed under subsection (f)(2).

9       “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
10     are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
11     such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011 and  
12     each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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