

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 618**

**Representative Sweeney**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 124.041 of the Revised Code to 1  
require the distribution of information 2  
regarding the U.S. Public Service Loan 3  
Forgiveness Program to public servants, to 4  
establish the Navigator Pilot Program to assist 5  
public servants in navigating the U.S. Public 6  
Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and to make an 7  
appropriation. 8

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

**Section 1.** That section 124.041 of the Revised Code be 9  
enacted to read as follows: 10

**Sec. 124.041.** (A) As used in this section: 11

(1) "Public service organization" has the same meaning as 12  
in 34 C.F.R. 685.219. 13

(2) "Employment certification form" means the form used by 14  
the United States department of education to certify an 15  
individual's employment at a public service organization for the 16  
purposes of the public service loan forgiveness program. 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  
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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 106

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. 107  
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**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. 113  
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