

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1175

To improve the public service loan forgiveness program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2019

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the public service loan forgiveness program.

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 “PSLF Technical Cor-
5 rections Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF**
7 **1965.**

8 Section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
11 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

1 (2) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
3 (A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting
4 “paragraph (3)”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in clause (ii), by inserting “or”
7 after the semicolon;

8 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

9 (iii) by redesignating clause (iv) as
10 clause (iii);

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(2) PAYMENTS IN GRADUATED OR EXTENDED
14 PLANS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to can-
16 celing the balance of interest and principal due
17 for a borrower described in paragraph (1), the
18 Secretary shall also cancel the balance of inter-
19 est and principal due, in accordance with para-
20 graph (3), on any eligible Federal Direct Loan
21 not in default for a borrower who—

22 “(i) has made 120 qualifying monthly
23 payments, as defined in subparagraph (B),
24 on the eligible Federal Direct Loan after
25 October 1, 2007;

1 “(ii) is employed in a public service
2 job at the time of such forgiveness; and

3 “(iii) has been employed in a public
4 service job during the period in which the
5 borrower makes each of the 120 payments
6 described in clause (i).

7 “(B) QUALIFYING MONTHLY PAYMENT.—
8 In this paragraph, the term ‘qualifying monthly
9 payment’ means any payment made under any
10 repayment plan that is not described in clause
11 (i), (ii), or (iii) of paragraph (1)(A) that satis-
12 fied the monthly amount the borrower was re-
13 quired to pay at the time the monthly amount
14 due was billed to the borrower.”;

15 (4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by para-
16 graph (1), by inserting “or paragraph (2), as the
17 case may be” after “paragraph (1)”; and

18 (5) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(6) DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS.—Not
20 later than July 1, 2019, the Secretary shall establish
21 a process for borrowers to dispute the calculation of
22 the number of monthly payments under paragraph
23 (1) or (2) that count toward loan forgiveness under
24 this subsection following the borrower’s submission
25 of a certification of employment or application for

1 forgiveness (or any successor certification or applica-
2 tion) under this subsection.

3 “(7) RECALCULATING THE NUMBER OF QUALI-
4 FYING PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR CURRENT PUB-
5 LIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM PARTICI-
6 PANTS.—Not later than July 1, 2019, the Secretary
7 shall, for each borrower that has submitted a certifi-
8 cation of employment under this subsection before
9 July 1, 2019—

10 “(A) calculate the number of monthly pay-
11 ments under paragraph (1) or (2) that count
12 toward loan forgiveness under this subsection,
13 using the criteria under this subsection as in ef-
14 fect on July 1, 2019; and

15 “(B) inform the borrower of the changes to
16 the public service loan forgiveness program
17 under this subsection that take effect on or be-
18 fore July 1, 2019, and the number of monthly
19 payments calculated for the borrower in accord-
20 ance with subparagraph (A).”.

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