

**The Librarian Incentive to Boost Recruitment and Retention in Areas of Need (LIBRARIAN)
Act of 2007
Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-31)**

Bill Summary

This bill provides for Perkins loan forgiveness to encourage individuals to become and remain librarians in schools and public libraries in low income areas.

Specifically, the bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 allowing Perkins loan cancellation for full-time librarians with a master's degree in library science that are employed in:

- a public library that serves a geographic area that contains one or more schools eligible for assistance under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, or
- an elementary or secondary school library that is eligible for assistance under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965.

To qualify for title I assistance, schools must have a high percentage of students from low-income families. Typically, schools have approximately 40 percent or more of its students that come from families that fall within the United States Census Bureau's definition of low income.

Librarians working full-time in low income areas would qualify for up to 100 percent Perkins loan forgiveness depending on the number of years of service. Specifically, they would qualify for:

- 15 percent loan forgiveness for each of the first and second years of such service;
- 20 percent loan forgiveness for each of the third and fourth years of such service; and
- 30 percent loan forgiveness for the fifth year of such service.

The loan forgiveness applies to the years of service that are completed after the date of enactment of the act. This benefits both students entering into the library science program and librarians with outstanding Perkins loans.