

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Campbell

308-2109-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student loans; creating s.
3 43.201, F.S.; providing for a financial
4 assistance program administered by the Justice
5 Administrative Commission to provide assistance
6 to qualified assistant state attorneys,
7 assistant public defenders, and assistant
8 capital collateral counsels for the repayment
9 of government student loans; providing for the
10 elements of the program; providing for funding;
11 providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Section 43.201, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 43.201 Justice Administrative Commission; student loan
18 program administration.--

19 (1) The commission shall administer a student loan
20 program for career assistant state attorneys, assistant public
21 defenders, and assistant capital collateral counsels as
22 described in chapter 27. The purpose of the program shall be
23 to provide financial assistance to assistant state attorneys,
24 assistant public defenders, and assistant capital collateral
25 counsels with law school government loans.

26 (2) The program shall be administered in the following
27 manner:

28 (a) No assistant state attorney, public defender, or
29 assistant capital collateral counsel shall be eligible for
30 assistance under the program until the assistant state
31 attorney, public defender, or assistant capital collateral

1 counsel has been employed as an assistant state attorney,
2 assistant public defender, or assistant capital collateral
3 counsel for a period of 3 years of continuous service on his
4 or her employment anniversary date.

5 (b) After completing 3 years of continuous service an
6 affidavit of certification on a form approved by the
7 commission shall be submitted to the state attorney's office,
8 the public defender's office, or the capital collateral
9 regional counsel's office as the case may be. The affidavit of
10 certification shall, upon approval of the state attorney,
11 public defender, or the capital collateral regional counsel,
12 be submitted to the commission.

13 (c) Upon receipt of the certificate, the commission
14 may begin yearly payments in the amount of \$3,000 to the
15 government student loan on behalf of the qualified assistant
16 state attorney, assistant public defender, or assistant
17 capital collateral counsel named in the certificate.

18 (d) Upon completion of 6 years of continuous service
19 the loan assistance payment amount shall increase to \$5,000.
20 After 12 years of continuous service or upon completion of the
21 payment of the student loan, whichever occurs first, loan
22 assistance shall cease. The total amount of loan assistance
23 permitted under the program for any one assistant state
24 attorney, assistant public defender, or assistant capital
25 collateral counsel shall not exceed \$44,000.

26 (3) The program shall be funded by appropriations from
27 the Legislature out of the General Revenue Fund to the Justice
28 Administrative Commission on an annual basis.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 1138

Corrects improper nomenclature by replacing the word
"Judicial" with "Justice" when used in reference to the
Justice Administrative Commission.

Expands the bill to provide for the repayment of law school
government student loans for qualified attorneys in the
offices of the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel.