

By Representative Paul

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 and
7 assistant public defenders for the repayment of
8 government student loans; providing for the
9 elements of the program; providing for funding;
10 providing an effective date.

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

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

16 43.201 Judicial Administrative Commission; student
17 loan program administration.--

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

24 (2) The program shall be administered in the following
25 manner:

26 (a) No assistant state attorney or public defender
27 shall be eligible for assistance under the program until the
28 assistant state attorney or public defender has been employed
29 as an assistant state attorney or assistant public defender
30 for a period of 3 years of continuous service on his or her
31 employment anniversary date.

1 (b) After completing 3 years of continuous service an
2 affidavit of certification on a form approved by the
3 commission shall be submitted to the state attorney's office
4 or the public defender's office as the case may be. The
5 affidavit of certification shall, upon approval of the state
6 attorney or public defender, be submitted to the commission.

7 (c) Upon receipt of the certificate, the commission
8 may begin yearly payments in the amount of \$3,000 to the
9 government student loan on behalf of the qualified assistant
10 state attorney or assistant public defender named in the
11 certificate.

12 (d) Upon completion of 6 years of continuous service
13 the loan assistance payment amount shall increase to \$5,000.
14 After 12 years of continuous service or upon completion of the
15 payment of the student loan, whichever occurs first, loan
16 assistance shall cease. The total amount of loan assistance
17 permitted under the program for any one assistant state
18 attorney or assistant public defender shall not exceed
19 \$44,000.

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

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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26 HOUSE SUMMARY

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28 Provides for a program for financial assistance to
29 qualified assistant state attorneys and assistant public
30 defenders administered by the Justice Administrative
31 Commission to provide assistance in the repayment of
 government student loans. See bill for details.