



HB 0709

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to student loans; creating s. 43.201,
 F.S.; providing for a financial assistance program
 administered by the Justice Administrative Commission to
 provide assistance to qualified assistant state attorneys
 and assistant public defenders for the repayment of
 government student loans; providing for the elements of
 the program; providing for funding; providing an effective
 date.

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

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

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

(1) The commission shall administer a student loan program
 for career assistant state attorneys and assistant public
 defenders as described in chapter 27. The purpose of the program
 is to provide financial assistance to assistant state attorneys
 and assistant public defenders who have law school government
 loans.

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

(a) An assistant state attorney or assistant public
 defender is not eligible for assistance under the program until
 the assistant state attorney or assistant public defender has
 been employed as an assistant state attorney or assistant public
 defender for 3 years of continuous service on his or her
 employment anniversary date.



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31 (b) After completing 3 years of continuous service, an
32 affidavit of certification on a form approved by the commission
33 shall be submitted to the state attorney's office or the public
34 defender's office as the case may be. The affidavit of
35 certification shall, upon approval of the state attorney or
36 public defender, be submitted to the commission.

37 (c) Upon receipt of the certificate, the commission may
38 begin yearly payments in the amount of \$3,000 to the government
39 student loan on behalf of the qualified assistant state attorney
40 or assistant public defender named in the certificate.

41 (d) Upon completion of 6 years of continuous service, the
42 loan assistance payment amount shall increase to \$5,000. After
43 12 years of continuous service or upon completion of the payment
44 of the student loan, whichever occurs first, loan assistance
45 shall cease. The total amount of loan assistance permitted under
46 the program for any one assistant state attorney or assistant
47 public defender may not exceed \$44,000.

48 (3) The program shall be funded by annual appropriations
49 from the Legislature out of the General Revenue Fund to the
50 Justice Administrative Commission.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.