

By Senator Campbell

32-60-03

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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 Judicial 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 public defender is not eligible for assistance under the program until the assistant state attorney or 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.

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 may not exceed \$44,000.

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

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

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25           SENATE SUMMARY

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