

By the Committees on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;
Judiciary; and Senators Campbell and Fasano

302-1340-04

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 eligible student loans; defining the term
9 "eligible student loan"; providing the elements
10 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 and assistant
21 public defenders as described in chapter 27. The purpose of
22 the program shall be to provide financial assistance to
23 assistant state attorneys and assistant public defenders with
24 eligible student loans.

25 (2) As used in this section, the term "eligible
26 student loan" means a loan that was issued pursuant to the
27 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to an assistant
28 state attorney or an assistant public defender to fund his or
29 her law school education.

30 (3) The program shall be administered in the following
31 manner:

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

7 (b) After an individual has completed 3 years of
8 continuous service, an affidavit of certification on a form
9 approved by the commission shall be submitted to the state
10 attorney's office or the public defender's office as
11 appropriate. The affidavit of certification shall, upon
12 approval of the state attorney or the public defender, be
13 submitted to the commission.

14 (c) Upon receipt of the certificate, the commission
15 shall begin yearly payments in the amount of \$3,000 to the
16 lender that services the eligible student loan. These payments
17 shall be made for the benefit of the qualified assistant state
18 attorney or assistant public defender named in the certificate
19 and for the purpose of satisfying the eligible student loan
20 obligation.

21 (d) Upon an individual's completion of 6 years of
22 continuous service, the yearly loan assistance payment amount
23 shall increase to \$5,000. Upon an individual's completion of
24 13 years of continuous service or upon full satisfaction of
25 the eligible student loan obligation, whichever occurs first,
26 loan assistance payments shall cease. The total amount of loan
27 assistance payments permitted under the program for any one
28 assistant state attorney or assistant public defender may not
29 exceed \$44,000.

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1 (4) The program shall be funded annually by an
2 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Justice
3 Administrative Commission.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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6 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
8 CS for SB 250

9 Amends the bill to insure consistent use of the term "shall."
10 Adds that an annual appropriation is required for the bill.
11 Clarifies the time frame in which payments are to be made.
12 Corrects technical deficiencies.

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