

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senators Campbell, Smith  
and Fasano

590-1067-05

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, assistant attorneys  
8           general, and assistant statewide prosecutors  
9           for the repayment of eligible student loans;  
10          providing definitions; providing the elements  
11          of the program; providing for funding;  
12          providing an effective date.

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

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

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

20           (1) The commission shall administer a student loan  
21 program for eligible career attorneys. The purpose of the  
22 program is to provide financial assistance to eligible career  
23 attorneys who receive eligible student loans.

24           (2) As used in this section, the term:

25           (a) "Eligible student loan" means a loan that was  
26 issued pursuant to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as  
27 amended, to an eligible career attorney to fund his or her law  
28 school education.

29           (b) "Eligible career attorney" means an assistant  
30 state attorney, assistant public defender, assistant attorney  
31 general, or assistant statewide prosecutor who has been

1 employed in that capacity for 3 years of continuous service on  
2 his or her employment anniversary date.

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

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

14 (b) 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 eligible career attorney  
18 named in the certificate and for the purpose of satisfying the  
19 eligible student loan obligation.

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

28 (4) The program shall be funded annually by an  
29 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Justice  
30 Administrative Commission. Funds shall be made available under  
31 the program on a first-come, first-served basis.

1           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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3                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
4                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
5                   Senate Bill 190

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7           The committee substitute expands the types of attorneys who  
8           may be eligible for student loan repayment assistance under  
9           the bill to include assistant attorneys general and assistant  
10          statewide prosecutors.

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