

By Senator Campbell

32-341-06

See HB 81

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 career assistant attorneys general,
7 assistant statewide prosecutors, assistant
8 state attorneys, and assistant public defenders
9 for the repayment of eligible student loans;
10 defining the term "eligible student loan";
11 providing the elements of the program;
12 providing loan assistance payment amounts;
13 providing for funding; providing an effective
14 date.

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

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

20 43.201 Justice Administrative Commission; student loan
21 program administration.--

22 (1) The Justice Administrative Commission shall
23 administer a student loan program for career assistant
24 attorneys general, assistant statewide prosecutors, assistant
25 state attorneys, and assistant public defenders. The purpose
26 of the program shall be to provide financial assistance to
27 assistant attorneys general, assistant statewide prosecutors,
28 assistant state attorneys, and assistant public defenders for
29 the repayment of eligible student loans.

30 (2) As used in this section, the term "eligible
31 student loan" means a loan that was issued pursuant to the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to an assistant
2 attorney general, assistant statewide prosecutor, assistant
3 state attorney, or assistant public defender to fund his or
4 her law school education.

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

7 (a) An assistant attorney general, assistant statewide
8 prosecutor, assistant state attorney, or assistant public
9 defender is not eligible for assistance under the program
10 until the assistant attorney general, assistant statewide
11 prosecutor, assistant state attorney, or assistant public
12 defender has been employed as an assistant attorney general,
13 assistant statewide prosecutor, assistant state attorney, or
14 assistant public defender for 3 years of continuous service on
15 his or her employment anniversary date.

16 (b) After an individual has completed 3 years of
17 continuous service, an affidavit of certification on a form
18 approved by the commission shall be submitted to the Office of
19 the Attorney General, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, the
20 state attorney's office, or the public defender's office, as
21 appropriate. The affidavit of certification shall, upon
22 approval of the Attorney General, statewide prosecutor, state
23 attorney, or public defender, as appropriate, be submitted to
24 the commission.

25 (c) Upon receipt of the certificate, the commission
26 may begin yearly payments in the amount of \$3,000 to the
27 lender that services the eligible student loan. These payments
28 shall be made for the benefit of the assistant attorney
29 general, assistant statewide prosecutor, assistant state
30 attorney, or assistant public defender named in the
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1 certificate and for the purpose of satisfying the eligible
2 student loan obligation.

3 (d) Upon an individual's completion of 6 years of
4 continuous service, the annual loan assistance payment amount
5 shall increase to \$5,000. After 12 years of continuous service
6 or upon completion of the payment of the eligible student
7 loan, whichever occurs first, loan assistance shall cease. The
8 total amount of loan assistance permitted under the program
9 for any one assistant attorney general, assistant statewide
10 prosecutor, assistant state attorney, or assistant public
11 defender may not exceed \$44,000.

12 (4) The program shall be funded annually by an
13 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Justice
14 Administrative Commission.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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