



198794

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
12/01/2015	.	
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The Committee on Judiciary (Ring) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 1009.675, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:

1009.675 For the Greater Good Attorney Student Loan  
Repayment Program.—

(1) There is established within the Department of Education  
the For the Greater Good Attorney Student Loan Repayment  
Program. The primary function of the program is to increase



12 employment and retention of attorneys in the public sector by  
13 making payments that offset student loans issued or guaranteed  
14 by a state or the Federal Government. The department shall  
15 administer the program.

16 (2) To be eligible to participate in this program, an  
17 attorney:

18 (a) Must be a member of The Florida Bar;

19 (b) Must be employed full time by a local, state, or  
20 federal government;

21 (c) Must be employed in this state;

22 (d) Must have completed not more than 10 years of  
23 government service, regardless of whether the attorney had a  
24 break in employment of less than 2 weeks while transferring to  
25 another governmental entity;

26 (e) Must be earning less than \$65,000 in salary as reported  
27 to the Internal Revenue Service;

28 (f) Must not have received any disciplinary action from The  
29 Florida Bar;

30 (g) Must have an unsatisfied student loan that was issued  
31 or guaranteed by a state or the Federal Government; and

32 (h) Is not eligible for any other state, local, or federal  
33 grant or private fund that assists in student loan repayment.

34 (3) Only loans that are not in default and that were issued  
35 pursuant to the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. ss. 1001  
36 et seq., as amended, to fund an eligible attorney's law school  
37 education shall be covered.

38 (4) From the funds available, the Department of Education  
39 shall make an annual payment as follows:

40 (a) Three thousand dollars if the attorney has at least 4



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41 years, but not more than 7 years, of continuous government  
42 service.

43 (b) Five thousand dollars if the attorney has more than 7  
44 years, but not more than 10 years, of continuous government  
45 service.

46 (5) Each payment is contingent upon an annual receipt of a  
47 certification affidavit. Within 30 days after the employment  
48 anniversary of an eligible attorney, in order to receive a  
49 payment under the program, such attorney must submit to his or  
50 her employer a certification affidavit on a form authorized by  
51 the department which certifies that the attorney was an eligible  
52 attorney as of his or her last employment anniversary. If the  
53 employer signs the affidavit, the employer shall submit the  
54 affidavit to the department within 60 days after the most recent  
55 employment anniversary of the eligible attorney, and each year  
56 thereafter.

57 (6) Payments are not deemed taxable income. Each payment  
58 shall be made directly to the financial institution that  
59 services the loan and, if the eligible attorney holds more than  
60 one eligible loan, for the loan that has the highest current  
61 interest rate.

62 (7) If funds appropriated are insufficient to provide  
63 maximum payment for eligible attorneys, the department shall  
64 prorate payments for all eligible attorneys by an equal  
65 percentage reduction for the year for which funds appropriated  
66 are insufficient.

67 (8) The Department of Education may adopt rules necessary  
68 to administer this program.

69 (9) The Greater Good Attorney Student Loan Repayment



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70 Program may be funded annually contingent upon a specific  
71 appropriation in the General Appropriations Act for the Greater  
72 Good Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

74 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

75 And the title is amended as follows:

76 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
77 and insert:

78 A bill to be entitled

79 An act relating to student loans; creating s.  
80 1009.675, F.S.; creating the For the Greater Good  
81 Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program to increase  
82 employment and retention of attorneys in the public  
83 sector; providing eligibility requirements; specifying  
84 the loans that will be covered by the repayment  
85 program; requiring the Department of Education to make  
86 payments to eligible attorneys; providing procedures  
87 to administer the program; providing that a payment is  
88 not taxable income; providing procedures if  
89 appropriated funds are insufficient; authorizing  
90 rulemaking; providing an effective date.