



27 (a) Must be a member in good standing of The Florida Bar  
 28 without disciplinary action against him or her by The Florida  
 29 Bar.

30 (b) Must be a full-time employee of a local, state, or  
 31 federal government agency.

32 (c) Must be a resident of the state.

33 (d) Must be continuously employed by a local, state, or  
 34 federal government agency for 10 years or less. For purposes of  
 35 this section, a break in employment of less than 2 weeks while  
 36 transferring between government agency positions is deemed  
 37 continuous government service.

38 (e) Must earn less than \$65,000 annually, as reported to  
 39 the United States Internal Revenue Service.

40 (f) May not be enrolled in any other loan forgiveness  
 41 program or receive any other grants or private funds to assist  
 42 in student loan repayment.

43 (3) Only loans that are not in default and issued pursuant  
 44 to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to pay the  
 45 costs of law school shall be covered under the program.

46 (4) A payment to an eligible attorney is contingent upon  
 47 receipt of a certification affidavit. Within 30 days after the  
 48 employment anniversary of an eligible attorney, such attorney  
 49 must submit to his or her employer a certification affidavit in  
 50 the format prescribed by the department which certifies that the  
 51 eligible attorney was an eligible attorney as of his or her last  
 52 employment anniversary. If the employer signs the affidavit, the

53 employer shall submit the affidavit to the department within 60  
54 days after the most recent employment anniversary of the  
55 eligible attorney.

56 (5) From the funds appropriated for the program, the  
57 department shall make a payment to an eligible attorney:

58 (a) If the eligible attorney graduated in the top 5  
59 percent of his or her law school class or scored in the top 5  
60 percent on the Florida bar examination based upon the percentile  
61 ranks in effect when the attorney took the examination and:

62 1. Has at least 1 year, but not more than 4 years, of  
63 continuous government service, a payment of \$3,000.

64 2. Has at least 5 years, but not more than 7 years, of  
65 continuous government service, a payment of \$5,000.

66 3. Has at least 8 years, but not more than 10 years, of  
67 continuous government service, a payment of \$8,000.

68 (b) If the eligible attorney graduated in the top 15  
69 percent of his or her law school class or scored in the top 15  
70 percent of the Florida bar examination based upon the percentile  
71 ranks in effect when the attorney took the examination and:

72 1. Has at least 2 years, but not more than 5 years, of  
73 continuous government service, a payment of \$3,000.

74 2. Has at least 6 years, but not more than 8 years, of  
75 continuous government service, a payment of \$5,000.

76 3. Has at least 9 years, but not more than 10 years, of  
77 continuous government service, a payment of \$8,000.

78 (c) For all other eligible attorneys that:

79        1. Have at least 4 years, but not more than 7 years, of  
 80 continuous government service, a payment of \$3,000.

81        2. Have at least 8 years, but not more than 10 years, of  
 82 continuous government service, a payment of \$5,000.

83  
 84 If the appropriated funds are insufficient to provide the  
 85 maximum payment for each eligible attorney, the department shall  
 86 prorate payments by an equal percentage reduction.

87        (6) (a) A payment under this section is not taxable income  
 88 and shall be made directly to the holder of the loan.

89        (b) If the eligible attorney holds more than one eligible  
 90 student loan, payment shall be made to the loan that has the  
 91 highest current interest rate.

92        (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
 93 administer the program.

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