

27 career attorney is employed as an assistant attorney general or
28 assistant statewide prosecutor.

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

32 (c) "Eligible career attorney" means an eligible attorney
33 who has completed at least 3 years, but not more than 12 years,
34 of continuous service as an eligible attorney, regardless of
35 whether the eligible attorney had a break in employment of less
36 than 2 weeks while transferring to another employer of eligible
37 attorneys.

38 (d) "Eligible student loan" means a loan that is not in
39 default and that was issued pursuant to the Higher Education Act
40 of 1965, 20 U.S.C. ss. 1001 et seq., as amended, to an eligible
41 career attorney to fund his or her law school education.

42 (e) "Employment anniversary" means the anniversary of the
43 date that an eligible career attorney commenced employment as an
44 eligible attorney.

45 (2) The administering body shall implement a student loan
46 assistance program for eligible career attorneys. The purpose of
47 the program is to provide financial assistance to eligible
48 career attorneys for the repayment of eligible student loans.

49 (3) The student loan assistance program shall be
50 administered in the following manner:

51 (a) Within 30 days after the employment anniversary of an
52 eligible career attorney, such attorney must submit to his or

53 her employer a certification affidavit on a form authorized by
54 the administering body which certifies that the eligible career
55 attorney was an eligible career attorney with one or more
56 eligible student loans as of his or her last employment
57 anniversary. If the employer signs the certification affidavit,
58 the employer shall submit the affidavit to the administering
59 body within 60 days after the eligible career attorney's most
60 recent employment anniversary.

61 (b) Upon receipt of a certification affidavit, the
62 administering body shall make a maximum payment of:

63 1. Three thousand dollars if the eligible career attorney
64 has at least 3 years, but not more than 6 years, of continuous
65 service as an eligible career attorney.

66 2. Five thousand dollars if the eligible career attorney
67 has more than 6 years, but not more than 12 years, of continuous
68 service as an eligible career attorney.

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70 If funds appropriated are insufficient to provide the maximum
71 payment for each eligible career attorney, the administering
72 body shall prorate payments by an equal percentage reduction.

73 (c) A payment under paragraph (b) shall be made by the
74 administering body:

75 1. To the lender of the eligible student loan;

76 2. Between July 1 and July 31 of the next fiscal year
77 following receipt of the certification affidavit by the
78 administering body;

79 3. For the benefit of the eligible career attorney named
80 in the certification affidavit and for the purpose of satisfying
81 his or her eligible student loan obligation; and

82 4. For the eligible student loan that has the highest
83 current interest rate if the eligible career attorney holds more
84 than one eligible student loan.

85 (d) Payments under paragraph (b) cease upon totaling
86 \$44,000 per eligible career attorney or upon full satisfaction
87 of the eligible student loan, whichever occurs first.

88 (4) The student loan assistance program may be funded
89 annually contingent upon a specific appropriation in the General
90 Appropriations Act for the student loan assistance program.

91 (5) The Justice Administrative Commission and the Office
92 of the Attorney General shall develop procedures to administer
93 this section.

94 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.