Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Aronberg

27-144A-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to student loans; creating s.
3	43.45, F.S.; providing for a financial
4	assistance program administered by the Justice
5	Administrative Commission and the Office of the
6	Attorney General to assist a career assistant
7	state attorney, assistant public defender,
8	assistant attorney general, or assistant
9	statewide prosecutor in the repayment of
10	eligible student loans; providing definitions;
11	providing elements of the program; requiring
12	the administering body to make a payment of a
13	certain amount; providing for funding;
14	requiring rulemaking; providing an effective
15	date.
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17	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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19	Section 1. Section 43.45, Florida Statutes, is created
20	to read:
21	43.45 Student loan assistance program;
22	administration
23	(1) The administering body shall implement a student
24	loan assistance program for eligible career attorneys. The
25	purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to
26	eligible career attorneys for the repayment of eligible
27	student loans.
28	(2) As used in this section, the term:
29	(a) "Administering body" means the Justice
30	Administrative Commission when the eliqible career attorney is
31	employed as an assistant state attorney or assistant public
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1	defender or the Office of the Attorney General when the
2	eligible career attorney is employed as an assistant attorney
3	general or assistant statewide prosecutor.
4	<u>(b) "Eligible attorney" means an assistant state</u>
5	attorney, assistant public defender, assistant attorney
6	general, or assistant statewide prosecutor.
7	(c) "Eligible career attorney" means an eligible
8	attorney who has completed at least 3 years but not more than
9	12 years of continuous service on his or her employment
10	anniversary date. However, eligibility for student loan
11	repayment assistance may not be lost due to a break in
12	employment of less than 2 weeks while an eligible attorney
13	transfers to another employer of eligible attorneys.
14	(d) "Eligible student loan" means a loan that was
15	issued pursuant to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as
16	amended, to an eligible career attorney to fund his or her law
17	school education and which is not in default.
18	(e) "Maximum available amount" means, in the event
19	that the amount of an appropriation from the General Revenue
20	Fund to an administering body is less than the amount
21	necessary to fund total payments by the administering body,
22	the amount that results from multiplying the percentage of
23	total funding appropriated by the payment amount of \$3,000 or
24	\$5,000 as provided in paragraph (3)(b). The percentage of
25	total funding appropriated is the amount that results from
26	dividing the amount of the appropriation by the amount
27	necessary to fund total payments under paragraph (3)(b).
28	(3) The student loan assistance program shall be
29	administered in the following manner:
30	(a) Within 30 days after the employment anniversary
31	date of an individual, the individual may submit to his or her

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1	employer a certification affidavit on a form authorized by the
2	administering body, which certifies that he or she, as of his
3	or her last employment anniversary date, is an eligible career
4	attorney with one or more eligible student loans. Upon
5	approval by the employing state attorney, public defender,
6	Attorney General, or statewide prosecutor, the certification
7	affidavit shall be submitted to the administering body within
8	60 days following the last employment anniversary date of the
9	eligible career attorney.
10	(b) The administering body that receives a
11	certification affidavit for an eligible career attorney
12	having:
13	1. Three to five years of continuous service shall
14	make a payment in the amount of \$3,000 or in the maximum
15	available amount, whichever is less.
16	2. Six to twelve years of continuous service shall
17	make a payment in the amount of \$5,000 or in the maximum
18	available amount, whichever is less.
19	(c) A payment under paragraph (b) shall be made by the
20	administering body:
21	1. For the benefit of the eligible career attorney
22	named in the certification affidavit and for the purpose of
23	satisfying his or her eligible student loan obligation.
24	2. To the lender that services the eligible student
25	loan between July 1 and July 31 of the next fiscal year
26	following receipt of the certification affidavit by the
27	administering body.
28	3. For the eligible student loan that has the highest
29	current interest rate if the eligible career attorney holds
30	more than one eligible student loan.
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<u>(d) Payments under paragraph (b) shall cease upon</u>

SB 196

2	totaling \$44,000 per eligible career attorney or upon full
3	satisfaction of the eligible student loan, whichever occurs
4	first.
5	(4) The student loan assistance program shall be
б	funded annually by an appropriation from the General Revenue
7	Fund to the administering body.
8	(5) The administering body shall adopt rules to
9	administer this section.
10	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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13	SENATE SUMMARY
14	Provides for a financial assistance program administered by the Justice Administrative Commission and the Office
15	of the Attorney General to assist a career assistant state attorney, assistant public defender, assistant
16	attorney general, or assistant statewide prosecutor in the repayment of eligible student loans. Provides
17	definitions. Provides elements of the program. Requires the administering body to make a payment of a certain
18	amount. Provides for funding. Requires rulemaking.
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