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H.B. No. 184

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain
prosecuting attorneys who are employed as part of the border
prosecution unit.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
Subchapter PP to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER PP. REPAYMENT OF EDUCATION LOANS FOR BORDER PROSECUTION

UNIT ATTORNEYS

Sec. 61.9971. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "border
prosecution unit" means the border prosecution unit established
under Subchapter B, Chapter 772, Government Code.

Sec. 61.9972. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The
board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board
rules, assistance in the repayment of eligible student loans for
eligible attorneys who apply and qualify for the assistance.

Sec. 61.9973. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan
repayment assistance under this subchapter, an attorney must:

(1) apply to the board in a manner prescribed by the
board;

(2) be an attorney licensed in this state; and

(3) have completed one, two, three, or four
consecutive years of employment as a prosecuting attorney for the
border prosecution unit.

1 Sec. 61.9974. LIMITATION. An attorney may receive loan
2 repayment assistance under this subchapter for not more than four
3 years.

4 Sec. 61.9975. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide
5 loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for the repayment
6 of any student loan for education at an institution of higher
7 education, a private or independent institution of higher
8 education, or a public or private out-of-state institution of
9 higher education accredited by a recognized accrediting agency,
10 including loans for undergraduate education, received by an
11 eligible person through any lender.

12 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a
13 student loan that is in default at the time of the person's
14 application.

15 (c) In each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt
16 to allocate all money appropriated to the board for the purpose of
17 providing loan repayment assistance under this subchapter.

18 Sec. 61.9976. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any
19 repayment under this subchapter in a lump sum payable:

20 (1) to both the lender or other holder of the loan and
21 the attorney; or

22 (2) directly to the lender or other holder of the loan
23 on the attorney's behalf.

24 (b) A repayment under this subchapter may be applied to any
25 amount due in connection with the loan.

26 Sec. 61.9977. AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. (a) For each
27 year an attorney establishes eligibility for the assistance, the

attorney may receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter in an amount determined by applying the following applicable percentage to the attorney's total student loan balance:

(1) for the first year, 25 percent;

(2) for the second year, 25 percent;

(3) for the third year, 25 percent; and

(4) for the fourth year, 25 percent.

(b) The total amount of loan repayment assistance awarded under this subchapter may not exceed the sum of:

(1) the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by the board for the repayment assistance;

(2) legislative appropriations for the repayment assistance; and

(3) other money available to the board for the repayment assistance.

(c) The total amount of loan repayment assistance received by an attorney under this subchapter may not exceed \$110,000.

(d) The total amount of loan repayment assistance awarded under this subchapter may not exceed \$2 million in each state fiscal biennium.

(e) The board may adjust in an equitable manner the distribution amounts that attorneys would otherwise receive under Subsection (a) for a year as necessary to comply with the other provisions of this section.

Sec. 61.9978. RULES; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The board shall adopt rules necessary to administer this subchapter.

(b) The board shall distribute copies of the rules adopted

1 under this section and other pertinent information relating to this
2 subchapter to:

3 (1) each school of law authorized by the board to award
4 a degree that satisfies the law study requirements for licensure as
5 an attorney in this state;

6 (2) the office of each prosecutor who is a member of
7 the border prosecution unit; and

8 (3) the criminal justice division of the governor's
9 office.

10 (c) The board shall administer the program under this
11 subchapter in a manner that maximizes any matching funds available
12 through other sources.

13 Sec. 61.9979. SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONEY. The
14 board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or
15 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.