

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 2277

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to authorizing certain state agencies to provide student
3 loan repayment assistance to attorneys.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding
6 Subchapter G to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER G. REPAYMENT OF EDUCATION LOANS BY
8 AGENCIES THAT ASSIST THE LEGISLATURE

9 Sec. 56.101. REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. (a) A state
10 agency that by statute provides services to the legislature that
11 include assisting in the drafting of proposed legislation may
12 provide, in accordance with this subchapter, assistance in the
13 repayment of education loans for attorneys employed by the agency
14 who apply and qualify for the assistance.

15 (b) The provision of financial assistance in the repayment
16 of education loans under this subchapter promotes a public purpose.

17 Sec. 56.102. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive
18 repayment assistance under this subchapter, an attorney must:

19 (1) apply to the agency;
20 (2) have been employed by the agency for a period that
21 includes at least one entire regular session of the legislature;
22 and

23 (3) be employed by the agency when the attorney
24 applies for the assistance.

1 Sec. 56.103. AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. The agency
2 shall determine the amount of repayment assistance an attorney may
3 receive under this subchapter as the agency considers appropriate
4 to recruit and retain qualified attorneys.

5 Sec. 56.104. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The agency may provide
6 repayment assistance for the repayment of any education loan
7 received by the attorney through any lender, other than a private
8 individual, for:

9 (1) education at a school of law that satisfies the law
10 study requirements for licensure as an attorney in this state; or

11 (2) undergraduate education at an institution of
12 higher education or an accredited private or independent
13 institution of higher education.

14 (b) The agency may not provide repayment assistance for an
15 education loan that is in default at the time of the attorney's
16 application.

17 Sec. 56.105. REPAYMENT. (a) The agency shall make
18 repayment assistance under this subchapter payable to both the
19 lender and the attorney and in accordance with any applicable
20 federal law.

21 (b) Repayment assistance received under this subchapter may
22 be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to interest that
23 accrues.

24 Sec. 56.106. ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO AGENCY. The agency
25 may request the assistance of the Texas Higher Education
26 Coordinating Board, the State Bar of Texas, or the office of the
27 attorney general in administering this subchapter.

1 Sec. 56.107. POLICIES. (a) The agency may develop policies
2 for the administration of this subchapter that are consistent with
3 the rules and statutes governing the agency.

4 (b) The agency may distribute a copy of the policies adopted
5 under this section and pertinent information regarding this
6 subchapter to:

7 (1) schools of law;

8 (2) any appropriate state agency; and

9 (3) any appropriate professional association.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.