

By: West

S.B. No. 223

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain
3 prosecuting attorneys who are employed as part of the border
4 prosecution unit.

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

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

8 SUBCHAPTER PP. REPAYMENT OF EDUCATION LOANS FOR BORDER PROSECUTION

9 UNIT ATTORNEYS

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

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

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

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

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

22 (3) have completed one, two, three, or four
23 consecutive years of employment as a prosecuting attorney for the
24 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

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

- 4 (1) for the first year, 25 percent;
- 5 (2) for the second year, 25 percent;
- 6 (3) for the third year, 25 percent; and
- 7 (4) for the fourth year, 25 percent.

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

- 10 (1) the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by
11 the board for the repayment assistance;
- 12 (2) legislative appropriations for the repayment
13 assistance; and
- 14 (3) other money available to the board for the
15 repayment assistance.

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

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

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

25 Sec. 61.9978. RULES; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The board shall
26 adopt rules necessary to administer this subchapter, including
27 rules regarding reimbursement of any loan repayment assistance paid

1 to an attorney who does not complete four consecutive years of
2 employment as a prosecuting attorney for the border prosecution
3 unit.

4 (b) The board shall distribute copies of the rules adopted
5 under this section and other pertinent information relating to this
6 subchapter to:

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

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

12 (3) the criminal justice division of the governor's
13 office.

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

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

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