

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2077

By: Jackson

6  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 ( state government - Oklahoma State Employee

9 Education Loan Assistance Act of 2007 -

10 codification - effective date -

11 emergency )

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1721 of Title 74, unless there  
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma State  
19 Employee Education Loan Assistance Act of 2007".

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1722 of Title 74, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 As used in this act:

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1           1. "Agency" means any executive branch entity of state  
2 government, including agencies that do not receive direct  
3 appropriations from the Legislature;

4           2. "Eligible employee" means a person who is a full-time  
5 employee of an agency and who incurs debt pursuant to the  
6 obligations under a qualified loan;

7           3. "Qualified loan" means a debt owed by the employee to any  
8 private or public entity for which repayment is legally required  
9 over a period greater than one (1) year the proceeds from which have  
10 been or will be used by the employee to make payment of tuition,  
11 fees, or other education expenses, such as books and materials, to  
12 an institution of higher learning, including any private college or  
13 university for coursework to obtain an undergraduate or graduate  
14 degree; and

15           4. "Required payback period" means two thousand (2,000) hours  
16 of full-time employment with the payor agency for each Five Thousand  
17 Dollars (\$5,000.00) of qualified education loan expense paid for by  
18 the agency.

19           SECTION 3.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1723 of Title 74, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22           A. An agency shall be authorized to make a direct payment not  
23 to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to an employee for  
24 qualified education loan expenses.

1 B. The provisions of this act shall only be applicable to loan  
2 expenses incurred on or after the effective date of this act.

3 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1724 of Title 74, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 If an eligible employee to whom payment has been made pursuant  
7 to Section 3 of this act terminates service with the payor agency  
8 prior to the expiration of the required payback period, the employee  
9 shall be required to reimburse the agency for the amount of the  
10 qualified education loan expense. If the employee performs less  
11 than the number of hours of service required for the full amount of  
12 the expense paid, the agency shall be reimbursed on a pro rata basis  
13 based upon the actual number of hours of service performed by the  
14 employee.

15 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2007.

16 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
17 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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21 51-1-7335 KB 02/22/07

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