

HOUSE No. 3565

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Establishing An Education Loan Repayment Program for Legislative and Committee Staff of the Massachusetts House of Representatives..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:

3 Section 42. There shall be a student loan repayment program for legislative and
4 committee staff of the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the purpose of retaining
5 qualified legislative and committee staff of all economic backgrounds. The program shall
6 provide financial assistance for the repayment of qualified education loans, as defined below,
7 and shall be administered by the board of higher education. The program shall be subject to
8 appropriation.

9 The term “qualified education loan” shall mean any indebtedness including interest on
10 such indebtedness incurred to pay tuition or other direct expenses incurred in connection with the
11 pursuit of a certificate, undergraduate or graduate degree by an applicant, but shall not include
12 loans made by any person related to the applicant, or loans paid by credit card.

13 The board shall promulgate guidelines governing the program. These guidelines shall
14 include the following provisions:

15 (1) eligibility shall be limited to persons with incomes that do not exceed 500% of the
16 federal poverty level;

17 (2) eligibility shall be limited to persons serving the Massachusetts House of
18 Representatives after July 1, 2009;

19 (3) the commonwealth shall repay a qualified education loan at a rate not to exceed 10%
20 of the total principal plus interest per year of service to the Massachusetts House of
21 Representatives;

22 (4) payments by the commonwealth shall be made directly to the lender on behalf of a
23 program participant, and shall cover only loan payments owed by the participant in the months
24 during which the participant works in the commonwealth as a legislative or committee staff
25 member for the Massachusetts House of Representatives.