



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 363**

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**Chairperson:** Brad Ashford  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Date of Hearing:** March 7, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 363 establishes a loan forgiveness program for Nebraska attorneys who provide public legal services. Attorneys eligible for loan forgiveness under the bill are those who provide legal services to indigent persons, defend indigent persons in criminal proceedings or perform prosecutorial duties. A board is established to review applications, determine who receives loan reimbursement, and administer the program. The board is comprised of the following members:

- Director of Nebraska Legal Services;
- The deans of Creighton and UNL law schools;
- One student from UNL and Creighton law schools, selected by the dean;
- A representative from the County Attorneys Association;
- A representative from the Criminal Defense Attorneys Association;
- A representative of the Bar Association; and
- Chief Counsel of the Commission on Public Advocacy.

The maximum award amount is initially \$6000 per year per recipient but can be increased by the board on an annual basis to adjust for inflation. Applicants must pay an application fee designed to cover the administrative costs of the loan forgiveness program. The loan forgiveness program is administratively located within the Commission on Public Advocacy, which is authorized by the bill to solicit and accept private donations for the forgiveness program. There is no appropriation to fund the loan forgiveness program in the bill, as it is designed to rely primarily on private donations.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Brad Ashford**