

**HF9045 - 0 - Student Loan Advocate**

Chief Author: **Zack Stephenson**  
 Committee: **Commerce Finance and Policy**  
 Date Completed: **2/8/2022 3:07:03 PM**  
 Agency: **Commerce Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
<b>Local Fiscal Impact</b>		
		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	233	203	203	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>233</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>203</b>	
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>233</b>			<b>406</b>

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	1.75	1.5	1.5
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>

**LBO Analyst's Comment**

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

**LBO Signature:** Darren Sheets    **Date:** 2/8/2022 3:07:03 PM  
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**State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details**

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund		-	-	233	203	203
<b>Total</b>		-	-	<b>233</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Biennial Total</b>				<b>233</b>		<b>406</b>
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
General Fund		-	-	233	203	203
<b>Total</b>		-	-	<b>233</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Biennial Total</b>				<b>233</b>		<b>406</b>
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

**Bill Description**

HF9045 requires a designation of a student loan advocate by the Commissioner of Commerce to “provide timely assistance to borrowers and to effectuate” the student loan servicer chapter. This bill also requires several duties of this designee, including: complaint processing, maintenance of a complaint database, assist borrowers, provide information to stakeholders, analyze and monitor similar laws, and increase public awareness of availability. This bill also requires the development and maintenance of a student loan education course.

**Assumptions**

Commerce assumes that the responsibilities within the bill will initially require one professional level (State Program Administrator, Sr) FTE and access to half of an FTE of legal assistance in the form of a lawyer on an ongoing basis. The education course would take one quarter of an FTE to develop and prepare; however, once the course is built, the advocate position could administer the program.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

1.25 State Program Administrator, Sr in FY23, reducing to 1 after development of the education course

.5 Attorney - ongoing

		FY23	FY24	FY25
Salary		136,357	118,974	118,974
Fringe		40,907	35,692	35,692
Other Personnel Related Costs		55,923	48,303	48,303
		<b>\$233,186</b>	<b>\$202,970</b>	<b>\$202,970</b>

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

N/A

**Local Fiscal Impact**

N/A

**References/Sources**

N/A

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