151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 380**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Griffith**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act establishes a Public Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program for attorneys employed by the State to practice law. This program would allow qualified applicants to apply for payment directly to the applicant's lending agency to pay a portion of the applicant's eligible educational loan. This program would be administered by the Criminal Justice Council (CJC).

3. Eligibility criteria for this program relevant to this fiscal projection include the State employing the applicant for a least a year, a primary job function of the practice of law, and cannot be earning over $110,000 per year.

4. A review of job classification and payroll data as of April 1, 2022, reveals that an estimated 145 positions out of 347 would be eligible for this program based on eligibility criteria outlined in this Act. The number of those individuals with student loan debt and the number of those eligible who would apply for relief is unknown and cannot be determined.

5. If 60% of those eligible apply, an estimated 87 individuals could apply for relief. This Act provides that the amount of the award shall be no less than $2,500 and no more than $5,000 annually. The estimated cost based on this could range from a minimum of $217,500 to a maximum of $435,000.

6. Lastly, this Act authorizes the acceptance of private donations and federal funding to support the program. For this fiscal projection, no external supplemental funding is assumed. It is assumed that funding would be contingent on an appropriation provided for this program to the CJC through the annual Appropriations Act. This Act provides that should insufficient funding be available to award every applicant who satisfies the requirements, the loan award committee shall prioritize applicants with the greatest financial need.

Cost:

	Minimum	Maximum
Fiscal Year 2023:	$217,500	$435,000
Fiscal Year 2024:	$217,500	$435,000
Fiscal Year 2025:	$217,500	$435,000

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Office of the Controller General