

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

LLS 24-0585 **Drafting Number:** February 22, 2024 Date: **Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Snyder **Bill Status: House Judiciary** Fiscal Analyst: Clayton Mayfield | 303-866-5851 clayton.mayfield@coleg.gov **UNIFORM CONSUMER DEBT DEFAULT JUDGMENTS ACT Bill Topic: Summary of** ☐ State Revenue ☐ State Transfer **Fiscal Impact:** ☐ TABOR Refund ☐ Statutory Public Entity The bill enacts the Uniform Consumer Debt Default Judgments Act. Starting in FY 2024-25, the bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis. **Appropriation** No appropriation is required. **Summary: Fiscal Note** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Colorado Status: Commission on Uniform State Laws.

Summary of Legislation

The bill enacts the Uniform Consumer Debt Default Judgements Act, which requires that prior to entering a motion for default judgment in certain consumer debt collection cases, complaints must contain certain information and that consumers in the complaint have been given a notice with required information.

State Expenditures

The bill increases trial court workload in the Judicial Department to update procedures to comply with the provisions of the bill. This fiscal note assumes that this workload increase is minimal, and that any additional resources needed will be sought through the annual budget process.

Local Government

Similar to the state, the bill increases workload in Denver County Court, which is locally funded, to ensure motions and court procedures comply with the provisions of the bill.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Departmental Difference

The Judicial Department estimates the bill requires about \$797,000 General Fund and 6.3 FTE in FY 2024-25 and about \$727,000 General Fund and 6.3 FTE in FY 2025-26 and ongoing based on the assumption that the bill will increase judicial officer time spent reviewing complaints related to default judgment motions by seven minutes per case, which when multiplied by the volume of such cases (around 37,000 per year), results in the need for additional magistrate and support staff FTE. This fiscal note assumes that judges currently review complaints in motions for default judgment and that, once court procedures are updated to reflect the requirements of the bill, additional time spent reviewing complaints will be minimal and absorbable within current resources.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial Law

Legislative Legal Services Regulatory Agencies

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the <u>General Assembly website</u>.