



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
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Bill Title: Relating to courts.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Judicial Department, Public Defense Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure authorizes the court to consider, upon receipt of a petition, whether to cancel in full or in part the fines, fees, or costs previously ordered by the court for the payment associated with representation from a court-appointed public defense counsel. The fine, fee, or cost may be cancelled in part or in full if the court determines that payment would be a “manifest hardship” for the petitioner or immediate family of the petitioner. To make this determination, the court must consider the financial resources, including income and assets, the financial obligations, the nature of the burden the debt imposes, the age of the debt, and any other equitable factor of the petitioner.

Additionally, the State Court Administrator must develop a standardized form to be used for petition for the remission of fines, fees, or costs and ensure the form is available on the Oregon Judicial Department’s (OJD) website.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact to OJD is anticipated to be minimal. While OJD expects the filing of additional petitions in circuit courts, the uniform petition form may offset the petitions received by the Department via letter or petitions filed pursuant to Uniform Trial Court Rule. However, the exact increase of filings at this time is indeterminate and will be monitored to capture caseloads in the future.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that while the fiscal impact to the agency is minimal, there may be an impact on revenue to the Criminal Fines Account (CFA). Under this specific statutory authority, if defendants are required to repay costs of court-appointed public defense counsel, that revenue is deposited into the CFA. Any modifications to statutory revenue streams, existing allocations, the priority of existing allocations, or the establishment of new allocation from CFA could impact state agency budgets that rely on this funding. Any undistributed funds in the CFA are deposited into the General Fund, so any modifications may also impact the availability of General Fund revenue.

There is no fiscal impact to the Public Defense Commission.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.