

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB268 **Patron:** Hernandez
Bill Title: Fines and costs; period of limitations on collection; deferred payment agreement.

Bill Summary: Changes the period of limitations for the collection of court fines and costs from within 60 years from the date of the offense or delinquency giving rise to imposition of such penalty if imposed by a circuit court or within 30 years if imposed by a general district court to within 10 years from the date of the judgment whether imposed by a circuit court or general district court. The bill provides that upon the expiration of the period of limitations, no action shall be brought to collect the debt. The bill also provides that for any defendant sentenced to an active term of incarceration and ordered to pay any fine, cost, forfeiture, or penalty related to the charge that such defendant is incarcerated for, or any other charge for which such defendant was sentenced on the same day, the court shall enter such defendant into a deferred payment agreement for such fines, costs, forfeitures, or penalties. The bill requires the due date for such deferred payment agreement to be set no earlier than the defendant's scheduled release from incarceration on the charge for which such defendant received the longest period of active incarceration.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 31
Explanation: See fiscal analysis

Fiscal Summary: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES), the impact of the bill on the courts systems' revenues is indeterminate. According to OES, the bill would require updates to the courts systems' accounting systems, at an estimated one-time cost of \$74,000.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
OES		\$74,000				
TOTAL		\$74,000				

Fiscal Analysis: Accounting systems utilized to process the collection of fines and costs for criminal/traffic offenses do not retain information for the associated underlying violation beyond 120 days after the owed amount was paid in full. Therefore, there is no viable method for calculating the total amounts that have been received in payment for cases with a judgment date between 11 and 60 years from the date of payment in circuit court, or 11 and 30 years from the date of payment in district court. Therefore, the fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate.

This bill would require updates to OES accounting systems to elongate the timeframe before which a case is marked as being in default, and to mark the due date according to the defendant's release date on the longest period of incarceration. The estimated one-time cost for the system enhancements is \$74,000.

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Other: Companion bill is SB180.