

Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5974 SB	Title: Unenforceable juvenile legal financial obligations	Agency: 055-Administrative Office of the Courts
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

COUNTY	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
County FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Counties		6,181,000	6,181,000		
Counties Subtotal \$		6,181,000	6,181,000		
CITY	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
City FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Cities					
Cities Subtotal \$					

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note for Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

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191,241.00

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Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact on the Courts

This bill would amend RCW 13.40.192 (Restitution and Other Legal Financial Obligations) related to enforcing legal financial obligations (LFOs) for juveniles.

Section 1 would amend the statute to provide that “any debts shall be rendered null and void and considered satisfied and paid in full by July 1, 2025.”

Section 2 would allow the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to take necessary steps to ensure this act is implemented by July 1, 2025.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

None, the LFOs are unenforceable so there is no cash receipt impact.

II. C - Expenditures

Juvenile case LFOs are managed in the Superior Court case management systems by information from court orders and other pleadings filed in the case, which is the official court file. The official court file is maintained by the local County Clerk’s office.

For juvenile case LFOs to be considered "null and void," a court order must be issued. The AOC cannot modify or adjust official court file data without permission granted by the County Clerk. Therefore, adjustments to the juvenile case LFO must be completed at the local level by the County Clerk.

Based on recent reporting on juvenile case LFOs from the Washington State Center for Court Research, there are an estimated 143,000 cases to be reviewed for adjustment.

IMPACT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

This bill would not have any fiscal impact to the AOC. Section 2 of the bill directs the AOC to “take necessary steps” to ensure the bill is implemented. However, all of the implementation work will reside with the Superior Courts and County Clerk offices.

IMPACT ON COUNTIES

Superior Courts

This judicial impact note assumes that Superior Court judicial officer time would not incur additional workload because juvenile LFOs have already been considered null and void.

County Clerks estimate the time to validate LFO case information for eligible cases and make the necessary account adjustments could take between 45-60 minutes. For the purposes of this judicial impact note, the assumption is an average time of 53 minutes on 143,000 cases. All costs are assumed in FY 2025, but it is unlikely that full implementation date or deadline could be met by the County Clerks.

County Total: \$6,181,000

County Clerk Staff Costs

53 minutes multiplied by 143,000 cases divided by 60 min per hour = 126,317 hours

126,317 hours divided by 2,088 hours per FTE = 60 FTE

60 FTE multiplied by \$88,900 per FTE = \$5,375,000

County Clerk Operating Costs

60 FTE multiplied by \$13,300 = \$806,000

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (State)

NONE

191,241.00

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III. B - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (County)

NONE

III. D - FTE Detail

NONE

III. E - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B1 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (State)

NONE

IV. B2 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (County)

NONE

IV. B3 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (City)

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

None