

HB 1111/SB 1310

Issue

Though Florida's economy continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, Florida's working families continue to be stunted by inflation and the high cost of living, exorbitant court fees and fines only compound their problems. Court-related debt can spiral into hundreds—if not thousands or even tens of thousands—of dollars. For the thousands of Floridian families who need every penny of their paycheck to pay for rent, food, medical bills, and childcare costs there is simply no way to pay these costs without sacrificing basic human necessities.

Fortunately, there are simple administrative changes that Florida can make to ensure working families are able to pay off any court-related debt without sacrificing basic needs or being dragged into inescapable debt. HB1111/SB1310 will allow judges to consider a person's financial circumstances alongside fines and fees that are imposed on them, giving them discretion to reduce, waive, or convert court debt to community service. The bill will also clarify payment plan provisions, expand notification systems, and standardize driver's license reinstatement fees across Florida.

Implementing HB1111/SB1310 will give families more power to spend their money where it can make the biggest impact for both their families and the state at large. This bill is an important step towards ensuring all Floridians can contribute to and participate in Florida's growth.

HB 1111/SB 1310:

Sponsored by Representative Rizo and Senator Calatayud HB1111/SB1310 would:

- Give judges discretion to waive, reduce or convert to community service, fines and fees.
- Clarify that only a single \$60 reinstatement fee must be paid to reinstate a driver's license after suspension for failure to pay court-related debt.
- Require notification provisions by text, email, phone or mail for upcoming or missed payments similar to the notifications already in place for court appearance reminders.
- Provide a 30-day grace period for individuals to make their first payment on a payment plan for those not incarcerated. For those who are incarcerated the bill provides a grace period of up to 90 days from the date of release to make their first payment.
- Require that the \$25 administrative fee and any down payment (if required) be included as part of the balance owed in the payment plan so that it would not be required up front.

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Contact the Fines and Fees Justice Center Florida State Director, Sarah Couture at scouture@ffjc.us or visit ffjc.us/florida for more information and resources.