

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 1783

Concerning Legal Financial Obligations (2017-2018 legislative sessions)

Evidence indicates that HB 1783 has potential to reduce the financial impact from legal financial obligations for individuals convicted of a crime which in turn has the potential to improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities for this population.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Holy, Goodman, Hansen, Hayes, Stokesbary, Senn, Orwall, Kagi, Appleton, Kilduff, Rodne, Jinkins, Taylor, Shea, Tharinger, Frame, Fitzgibbon, Berquist, Fey, Marci, Ryu, Doglio, Pellicciotti, Peterson, Santos, Reeves, Kloba, Robinson, Stanford, Hudgins, McBride, Ormsby, Pollet

Summary of Bill:

- Eliminates interest on the non-restitution portion of legal financial obligations (LFOs).
- Provides the opportunity for a defendant who is indigent to convert his or her unpaid fines, penalties, assessments (except for the victim penalty assessment), fees, and costs to community restitution hours at the rate of no less than the state minimum wage.
- Prioritizes the collection of restitution prior to the payment of any other LFOs.
- Establishes that a defendant is exempt from paying specified costs if they are found to be indigent at the time of sentencing.
- Allows defendants the ability to pay fines, penalties, assessments, fees, and costs in designated installments or within a designated period if the defendant is found to be indigent.
- Establishes that nonpayment of LFOs by an offender who is homeless or mentally ill is not willful noncompliance and is therefore exempt from penalties.
- Establishes that an offender does not have to pay a second \$100 DNA database fee if a DNA sample was collected as a result of a prior conviction.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in HB 1783:

- Strong evidence that the provisions required by HB 1783 would likely lead to a reduced financial impact from LFOs for individuals convicted of a crime.
- Very strong evidence that reducing the financial impact from LFOs for individuals convicted of a crime would likely lead to improved health outcomes.
- Very strong evidence that improving health outcomes for individuals convicted of a crime would likely decrease health disparities by income, race/ethnicity, and education as well as health disparities faced by those experiencing mental illness and homelessness.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2017-09-HB1783.pdf>

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