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H.B. 296
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Rep. M. Miller

Ashley F. Dean, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Prohibits a court from requiring an offender to pay any outstanding court-assessed fines, fees, financial sanctions, or costs arising from a criminal proceeding during either of the following periods, whichever is later:
 - The 180 days following the offender's release from a prison sentence of one year or more;
 - The 180 days following the offender's completion of a transitional control period.
- States that delaying the payment of fines, fees, financial sanctions, or costs does not apply to restitution owed to a victim.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Financial sanctions

Under current law, unchanged by the bill, the court imposing a sentence upon an offender for a felony conviction may include in that sentence certain financial sanctions, unless the conviction carries a mandatory fine, and must include in that sentence any restitution owed to a victim. Those financial sanctions include, but are not limited to, fines, court costs, costs of confinement, or costs of implementing any community control sanction.¹ In certain situations, a first, second, or third degree felony violation carries a mandatory fine that the court must impose upon the offender, unless the court determines that the offender is an indigent person and is unable to pay the mandatory fine.²

¹ R.C. 2929.18(A).

² R.C. 2929.18(B).

If a court imposes a financial sanction upon an offender, the bill prohibits a court from requiring an offender to pay any outstanding court-assessed fines, fees, financial sanctions, or costs arising from a criminal proceeding during either of the following periods, whichever is later:³

- The 180 days following the offender’s release from a prison sentence of one year or more;
- The 180 days following the offender’s completion of a transitional control period.

The bill specifies that delaying the payment of court-assessed fines, fees, financial sanctions, or costs arising from a criminal proceeding does not apply to restitution owed to a victim.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-25
Reported, H. Judiciary	11-19-25
Passed House (86-6)	02-18-26

ANHB0296PH-136/sb

³ R.C. 2929.18(K).

⁴ R.C. 2929.18(K).