

JUDICIAL IMPACT FISCAL NOTE

Bill Number: 2421 HB	Title: Traffic LFO Consolidation	Agency: 055 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
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Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
Total:					

Estimated Expenditures from:

STATE	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
FTE – Staff Years		3.0	1.5	3.0	3.0
Account					
General Fund – State (001-1)		373,775	373,775	682,367	702,367
State Subtotal		373,775	373,775	682,367	702,367
COUNTY					
County FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Counties					
Counties Subtotal					
CITY					
City FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local – Cities					
Cities Subtotal					
Local Subtotal					
Total Estimated Expenditures:		373,775	373,775	682,367	702,367

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 form 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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Part II: Narrative Explanation

This bill would require the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to create a unified payment plan/system to allow for the efficient statewide consolidation of an individual's traffic-based financial obligations imposed by courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJ) into a unified and affordable payment plan.

General Assumptions

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) would be given the authority to establish a unified payment plan system for the consolidation of multiple traffic-based financial obligations.

The AOC may use collection agencies or private accounts receivable companies for the purposes of administering the unified payment plan system.

The Supreme Court would be requested to establish a payment plan policy for the unified payment plan system established by the AOC. Likewise, the Supreme Court would be requested to promulgate a rule for CLJ's requiring them to develop their own payment plan policies regarding how defendants can request a payment plan from the court.

All CLJ's would be required to participate in the unified payment plan system.

There is no effective date provided for this bill, so it is assumed the bill would be effective July 1, 2018.

Part II.A – Brief Description of what the Measure does that has fiscal impact on the Courts

Section 2(24) – The AOC, under the supervision of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, would be required to establish a unified payment plan system for the consolidation of multiple traffic-based financial obligations.

Section 3 – The AOC would be required to create a unified payment plan system to allow for the consolidation of multiple traffic-based financial obligations from courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJ).

Section 3(3) – The AOC would be authorized to use collection agencies to the same extent as CLJs as provided by RCW 3.02.045.

Section 3(4) - Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, a person would be eligible to participate in the unified payment plan system when he or she has either:

- (a) More than one order for a license suspension issued pursuant to RCW 46.20.289 on his or her driving abstract in effect at the time of application; or
- (b) One order for a license suspension issued pursuant to RCW 46.20.289 on his or her driving abstract in effect at the time of application and outstanding traffic-based financial obligations totaling more than seven hundred fifty dollars.

Section 3(5)(a) - A person would be ineligible to participate in the unified payment plan system if he or she is the subject of any outstanding arrest warrant.

Section 3(5)(b) - A person would be temporarily ineligible to participate in the unified payment plan system for a period of two years if he or she had his or her payment plan terminated more than three times in the most recent three-year period.

Section 3(6) - The Supreme Court would be requested to prescribe by rule a policy governing payment plan terms for the unified payment plan system.

Section 4(6)(c) – Would provide that if a person has not entered into a payment plan with the court and has not paid the monetary obligation in full on or before the time established for payment, the person would be allowed to apply for participation in the unified payment plan system.

Section 4(6)(d) – Would provide that if the payment plan is administered by the AOC, the AOC would be allowed to assess a reasonable administrative fee. If the fee is assessed by the AOC, the fee would be wholly retained by the AOC. The fee may be the equivalent to the amount allowed under RCW 46.20.341(2)(e)ⁱ.

Section 4(6)(e) – The AOC would be allowed to contract with outside entities to administer the payment plan system. If an outside entity is used for the administration of the payment plan, the AOC would be allowed to assess the person a reasonable fee for the administrative services, which fee would be calculated on a periodic, percentage, or other basis.

II.B - Cash Receipt Impact

Indeterminate. It is unknown how many persons would be eligible, apply, and/or participate in the unified payment program. Further, it is unknown at this time whether the AOC would contract with an outside entity for administration of the program or would develop and administer the program internally.

II.C – Expenditures

It is assumed that whether the AOC contracts for collections/accounts receivable administration of the unified payment plan program or administers the program internally, additional FTEs would be required. The following is a summary of potential FTE-related costs:

Program Management, Maintenance, and Administration

1.0 FTE Program Management to oversee the program, provide interaction with courts and other state agencies (such as the Department of Licensing), and provide on-going maintenance and support following implementation.

Contracts Management and Financial Services Support

1.0 FTE to provide management and ongoing oversight of contracting and procurement; assuming the AOC would implement the unified payment program by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) as needed for collections, accounts receivable, or other services. This position would also provide financial services support, such as development of financial business processes, reconciliations, revenue analysis, and audit functions.

Public Information and Education

1.0 FTE Public Information and Education to provide promotion of the program and dissemination of information to the courts and the public regarding participation, policies, and procedures. This position would also work with the Supreme Court to establish a payment plan policy for the unified payment plan system established by the AOC. The Supreme Court would be requested to promulgate a rule for CLJ's requiring them to publish written payment plan policies.

Additional travel and related costs (room rentals, etc.) are included for public meetings, and ongoing staff coordination and support with CLJ's statewide.

Costs are included for standard staff benefits, goods/services, and required equipment. It is assumed that all identified FTE costs would be ongoing.

Table I – Estimated Staff Detail

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
Contracts Manager	72,744		1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0
Public Info & Educ	73,656		1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0
Program Maintenance	78,348		1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0
Total FTEs	224,748	-	3.0	1.5	3.0	3.0

Table II – Summary of Estimated Staff and Related Costs

Cost Category	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
FTE - Staff Years		3.0	1.5	3.0	3.0
A - Salaries & Wages		224,748	224,748	449,496	449,496
B - Employee Benefits		81,323	81,323	162,646	162,646
E - Goods & Services		13,913	13,913	27,825	27,825
G - Travel		30,000	30,000	40,000	60,000
J - Capital Outlays		23,791	23,791	2,400	2,400
Total	-	373,775	373,775	682,367	702,367

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III.A – Expenditures by Object or Purpose

III.B – Detail:

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
Total FTE's						

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

None.

Part V: New Rule Making Required

None.

¹ RCW 46.20.341(2)(e) - A relicensing diversion program that is structured to occur after charges are filed may charge participants a one-time fee of up to one hundred dollars, which is not subject to chapters 3.50, 3.62, and 35.20 RCW, and shall be used to support administration of the program. The fee of up to one hundred dollars shall be included in the total to be paid by the participant in the relicensing diversion program.