

# Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 2251 HB	<b>Title:</b> Unenforceable LFOs	<b>Agency:</b> 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					
<b>Account</b>					
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					
<b>Account</b>					
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.

Legislative Contact: Luke Wickham	Phone: 360-786-7146	Date: 01/11/2024
Agency Preparation: Angie Wirkkala	Phone: 360-704-5528	Date: 01/25/2024
Agency Approval: Chris Stanley	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date: 01/25/2024
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

192,084.00

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

Request # 081-1

Bill # 2251 HB

## 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

192,084.00

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

**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