

Black, Indigenous and People of Color are sentenced to pay LFOs more frequently and at higher rates than whites.

Failure to pay LFOs can lead to dire consequences, including arrest and sanctions.

The LFO system disproportionately punishes the poor: 80-90% of defendants in superior courts are indigent.

**People with criminal convictions deserve a fair chance at rebuilding their lives in their community and achieving economic stability.** Legal financial obligations (LFOs)—the fines, fees, costs, and restitution imposed on people with criminal convictions—create significant **barriers to successful reentry** for individuals who **lack the ability to pay**.

**HB 1412 will increase opportunities for relief from LFOs for people who lack the ability to pay.** HB 1412 provides a safety valve by **expanding judicial discretion** to waive or reduce certain currently mandatory LFOs based on evidence of a person's inability to pay. Courts would be able to:

- waive or reduce restitution owed to entities other than individuals;
- waive the 12% interest rate on restitution;
- waive the victim penalty assessment any time after it is imposed if a person lacks the ability to pay; and
- waive previously imposed fines based on inability to pay.

**HB 1412 promotes reentry** by removing restrictions on people who are in prison from seeking relief from certain LFOs. This bill recognizes that people who are incarcerated may face significant hardships that require waiver or reduction of LFOs before release—including certain costs and interest—and allows them to get a potential head start on planning a successful community reintegration.

**HB 1412 creates finality so that people can move past their convictions.** Court jurisdiction to collect LFOs is indefinite. As a result, people who are indigent can never get out from under their LFOs even though their convictions may have occurred decades ago. HB 1412 limits the timelines on collections of some LFOs.

**HB 1412 will reduce the disproportionate impacts that LFOs have on poor people and communities of color.** Our LFO system leads to poor people of color disproportionately shouldering the financial burden of court debt, further worsening the wealth gap between white communities and communities of color.