BILL SUMMARY

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.: HB 3295
Version: Committee Substitute
Request Number: 10905
Author: Rep. Kannady
Date: 3/23/2022
Impact: Administrative Office of the Courts =

Minimal

Research Analysis

The committee substitute to HB 3925 creates a court cost compliance program to begin November 1, 2022. The program is to assist county sheriffs and the courts with the collection of fines, costs, fees, and assessments associated with cases in which a warrant has been issued and the case has been referred to the court cost compliance program. The measure allows the sheriff to contract with a third party to attempt to locate and notify persons of their outstanding warrants. The measure allows for the recall of an outstanding warrant if the person provides a down payment of \$100 and a mutually agreeable monthly payment plan. The measure requires the court to notify the defendant at the time of sentencing of the total amount of all statutory fines, costs, fees ad assessments to be paid. The measure requires the court to consider the defendants ability to pay and the criteria to be taken into consideration. The measure prevents the arrest of a person for failure to pay if the person voluntarily appears at the courthouse to make a payment or to present evidence regarding ability to pay. If a defendant is delinquent for 60 days, the court is to set a hearing to determine ability to pay. All counties are to participate in the court cost compliance program.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

The committee substitute to the measure would establish a court cost compliance program effective November 1st, 2022.

Upon review and with consultation from the Administrative Office of the Courts, passage of the measure may have a minimal fiscal impact to the state. The measure may increase collections received by district courts. However, by using a court cost compliance program vendor, district courts may receive total outstanding assessments later than under current law. This could affect the cash flow of district courts.

Prepared By: Clayton Mayfield

Other Considerations

None.