

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB4237
Version:	Polpcs1
Request Number:	16351
Author:	Kannady
Date:	2/27/2026
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

The policy committee substitute to HB 4237 requires the court at sentencing to impose any fines, court costs, fees, and assessments and offer to conduct an ability to pay hearing to determine the ability of the defendant to satisfy the financial obligations. The defendant is to be ordered to pay the financial obligations unless the court makes a finding that:

- the household income of the defendant is less than 150% of the federal poverty level;
- the defendant is receiving state, local or federal benefits based on indigency or receiving need-based public assistance;
- the defendant is receiving subsidized housing support;
- the defendant is designated as totally disabled by a federal, state, or tribal disability services program.

If the court makes a finding that any of these conditions are met, the financial obligations are to be waived in whole. If the court finds that the defendant has some ability to pay, but not the full amount, the court is to reduce the amount owed or impose payment in part, and may order community service in lieu of payment or establish an installment plan. The measure prohibits the imprisonment or suspension of driving privileges for failure to pay fines, court costs, fees, or assessments. Unpaid balances of financial obligations that have not been waived are to be reduced to a civil judgement and transferred to civil court for enforcement. The Administrative Office of the Courts is to develop forms, rules and guidelines regarding ability-to-pay hearings, documenting findings, implementing reductions or waivers, transferring uncollected debts to civil court, and tracking compliance.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.