

SENATE BILL 924

E4, E2, D1

3lr0874
CF HB 154

By: **Senators A. Washington and Carter**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2023

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated
4 Fines and Fees; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study the Impact of
5 Court-Mandated Fines and Fees.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) There is a Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees.

9 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

10 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
11 the Senate;

12 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House;

14 (3) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee;

15 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; and

16 (5) the following members appointed by the Governor:

17 (i) one representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts;

18 (ii) one representative of the Job Opportunities Task Force;

19 (iii) one representative of the National Fines and Fees Justice
20 Center;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition;
2 and

3 (v) one representative of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

4 (c) The Workgroup shall elect a chair from among its members.

5 (d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

6 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

7 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

8 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
9 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

10 (f) The Workgroup shall:

11 (1) study the impact of court-mandated fines and fees on low-income
12 residents and the revenue structure that relies on court-mandated fines and fees;

13 (2) develop a plan and legislative recommendations for eliminating or
14 reducing court-mandated fines and fees;

15 (3) collect the following data:

16 (i) a schedule of fines and fees imposed by the Court or any
17 government agency for misdemeanors, felonies, and traffic violations, disaggregated by
18 type and the imposing jurisdiction;

19 (ii) the amount imposed and collected from each type of fine and fee
20 from fiscal years 2017 through 2022;

21 (iii) the specific budget allocation for each fine and fee imposed by
22 State and local jurisdictions from fiscal years 2018 through 2022; and

23 (iv) the corresponding legislative authority for the assessment of
24 each fine and fee; and

25 (4) create a comprehensive database of court-mandated fines and fees
26 imposed by State and local jurisdictions, including but not limited to the following:

27 (i) circuit and District Court fees;

28 (ii) jury fees and court administrative costs;

- 1 (iii) Public Defender reimbursement and application fees;
- 2 (iv) home detention and electronic monitoring fees;
- 3 (v) parole and probation fees;
- 4 (vi) jail room and board;
- 5 (vii) work release fees;
- 6 (viii) Ignition Interlock Program device fees;
- 7 (ix) drug and alcohol testing fees;
- 8 (x) expungement filing and fingerprinting fees;
- 9 (xi) all court-related fees and interest sent to and collected by the
10 Central Collections Unit as defined in § 3-304 of the State Finance and Procurement
11 Article; and
- 12 (xii) any other fees acknowledged by the Workgroup.

13 (g) On or before December 31, 2023, the Workgroup shall report its plan and
14 legislative recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
15 State Government Article.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
17 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
18 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
19 abrogated and of no further force and effect.