
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5974

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators Frame, Saldaña, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Nguyen, Nobles, Trudeau, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/19/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to the disposition of unenforceable legal
2 financial obligations other than restitution imposed by a court or an
3 agent of the court against a juvenile prior to July 1, 2023; amending
4 RCW 13.40.192; and creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.40.192 and 2023 c 449 s 20 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) If a juvenile is ordered to pay restitution, the money
9 judgment remains enforceable for a period of 10 years. When the
10 juvenile reaches the age of 18 years or at the conclusion of juvenile
11 court jurisdiction, whichever occurs later, the superior court clerk
12 must docket the remaining balance of the juvenile's restitution in
13 the same manner as other judgments for the payment of money. The
14 judgment remains valid and enforceable until 10 years from the date
15 of its imposition. The clerk of the superior court may seek extension
16 of the judgment for restitution in the same manner as RCW 6.17.020
17 for purposes of collection as allowed under RCW 36.18.190.

18 (2) (a) A judgment against a juvenile for any legal financial
19 obligation other than restitution including, but not limited to,
20 fines, penalty assessments, attorneys' fees, court costs, and other
21 administrative fees, is not enforceable after July 1, 2023. The

1 superior court clerk shall not accept payments from a respondent who
2 was ordered to pay legal financial obligations, including fines,
3 penalty assessments, attorneys' fees, and court costs after July 1,
4 2023. Any such debts shall be rendered null and void, and considered
5 satisfied and paid in full by July 1, 2027, according to the
6 following schedule:

7 (i) By June 30, 2025, debts resulting from cases filed from July
8 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023;

9 (ii) By June 30, 2026, debts resulting from cases filed from July
10 1, 2013, through June 30, 2018; and

11 (iii) By June 30, 2027, debts resulting from cases filed prior to
12 July 1, 2013.

13 (b) Nothing in this section shall prevent a court from granting
14 individual relief at any time in response to a motion.

15 (c) The presiding judge of a superior court may at any time
16 authorize an administrative process to waive outstanding debt for any
17 uncollectible legal financial obligation, other than restitution,
18 imposed against a juvenile. The administrative process must ensure
19 that debts:

20 (i) Are waived within any statutorily required deadlines;

21 (ii) Do not affect an individual's credit;

22 (iii) Are recalled from any collections agency; and

23 (iv) Do not appear in any background check.

24 (d) For the purposes of this section, the clerk of the superior
25 court may seek a judicial order to waive outstanding debt for any
26 uncollectible legal financial obligations, other than restitution, in
27 the same manner as the clerk is authorized to seek an extension of
28 jurisdiction under RCW 6.17.020 for purposes of collection as allowed
29 under RCW 36.18.190. Any motion filed by the clerk of the superior
30 court under this section does not constitute the practice of law.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The administrative office of the courts
32 shall submit an annual report to the relevant committees of the
33 legislature on the implementation of this act beginning on November
34 1, 2024, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036.

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