

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3319**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3319 (2R).

This bill eliminates certain statutory costs, fees, and penalties imposed on juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.

The bill specifically eliminates the following fees, fines, costs, and other monetary penalties:

(1) the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction (DEDR) penalty required pursuant to N.J.S.2C:35-15 when the court dismisses a complaint against a juvenile who has made a satisfactory adjustment during a period of continuance of up to 12 months;

(2) the costs of the juvenile's serological test for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS when a law enforcement officer, victim, or other person suffered a prick from a hypodermic needle or had contact with the juvenile which involved or was likely to involve the transmission of bodily fluids;

(3) the costs of an approved remedial education or counseling program to which a juvenile is diverted by the court;

(4) the civil penalty of at least \$2,000 or actual costs, whichever is higher, incurred by law enforcement and emergency services in responding to a false public alarm;

(5) the \$25 forensic laboratory fee imposed on juveniles adjudicated delinquent; and

(6) the \$15 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund fee imposed on juveniles adjudicated delinquent.

On and after the effective date of the bill, any unpaid outstanding balances of statutory or court-ordered fines, fees, costs, or other monetary penalties previously assessed or imposed upon a juvenile or the juvenile's parent or guardian are vacated, as are any unsatisfied civil judgments based on these monetary penalties. Further, all warrants based on the alleged failure of the juvenile or parent or guardian to pay or to appear in court to pay these monetary penalties are to be reviewed and vacated consistent with the bill. These provisions are both retroactive and prospective. Further, these provisions are effective nine months after the bill is enacted to give the

Administrative Director of the Courts the necessary time to complete the manual process of identifying, vacating, and discharging the fines, fees, costs, and other monetary penalties.

The bill also prohibits a warrant from being issued for a juvenile defendant or the parents or guardian of a juvenile defendant for failure to pay certain statutorily imposed assessments, probation fees, other court imposed financial obligations, restitution, or child support.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3319 (2R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5507, as amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that State, county, and municipal governments will experience a decrease in revenues resulting from the elimination of certain statutory costs, fees, and penalties imposed on juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. However, the OLS also anticipates a decrease in expenditures resulting from the decreased workload related to the collections of the same statutory costs, fees, and penalties.