

Help End Debtors' Prison in Delaware

Take action now to support HB244 with HA1 in the state legislature.

A CALL TO ACTION BY THE CAMPAIGN TO END DEBTORS' PRISON

FACTS ABOUT FINES & FEES

The current system of fines and fees creates unintended consequences that are at odds with the objectives of the criminal justice system.

- Your driver's license can be suspended, and you can be sent to prison, for nonpayment of court-imposed fines and fees.
 - 20,679 licenses were suspended for nonpayment in 2017.
 - 129 imprisoned for nonpayment in the first half of 2018.
- Children in Delaware can be assessed fines and fees.
- Fines and fees disproportionately impact Delawareans with low income and/or those of color.
- Delaware is ranked 47th in the nation by the National Center for Access for Justice (*ncaj.org*) for its fines and fees policies.
- Our system needlessly reinforces a cycle of indebtedness and poverty that prevents individuals from regaining a foothold in society and pursuing economic prosperity.

Join the Campaign in telling the Delaware General Assembly to pass HB 244 with HA1.*

*Read the Campaign's letter to the General Assembly and add your name: <https://tinyurl.com/mpvwxnpz>

MYTH:
We need fines and fees to raise gov't revenue.

- Fines and fees can be substantial, leading to a crippling financial liability (e.g., up to \$502 for a misdemeanor).
- Fines and fees are an inefficient way to raise revenue because they target people who cannot pay, costing a state \$41 to collect \$100, according to studies.
- Fines and fees make people more likely to engage in criminal behavior (by 38.3%, according to a 2018 study).

MYTH:
We need fines and fees to deter crime.

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS MUST KNOW ABOUT THIS BILL

- Prohibits suspension of driver's licenses.
- Prohibits the assessment of fines and fees on children.
- Prohibits new charges for payment-related issues.
- Eliminates fees for Public Defender and probation.
- Requires reporting and analysis.
- The estimated 3-year \$7M in lost revenue will be offset by the societal benefit of defendants who will continue to be able to drive to work, earn, pay taxes, support their families, and contribute to the stability of their communities.

BOTTOM LINE: Fines and fees are an equal-justice issue!

LEARN MORE...

Bill: legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=78879 • Org's: ncaj.org and finesandfeesjusticecenter.org
Campaign website: finesandfeesde.org • Join as a volunteer advocate: enddebtorsprison@gmail.com