STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31326 / S1348

A review of outstanding unpaid fines in Idaho shows a need to address this growing problem. This bill requires the court to review debts owed to the court by a defendant or juvenile offender every 90 days. It also requires the person owing the fines to appear before the court to explain why payments are not made and to establish a meaningful payment plan. Since fines and fees ordered by the court are often used in lieu of jail time, a review of compliance of the court order is appropriate. In addition, these fines are often difficult to collect for counties, whereas an assessment of these delinquencies could improve compliance with the court orders by ensuring the review takes place in court. Fiscal Note Any additional cost to the court to review these fines should be limited.

FISCAL NOTE

Any additional cost to the court to review these fines should be limited. Additional costs will be offset by the likelihood of the increased number of payments and fine compliance, thereby reducing demand on the general fund to pay for court operations.

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