

**TESTIMONY ON HB 4142  
BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

**PRESENTED BY: CHIEF JUSTICE MARTHA WALTERS**

I introduced HB 4142 as part of the Judicial Branch's efforts to make court collections more fair by allowing consideration of an individual's ability to pay. As you may know, this effort is one of the commitments the Judicial Branch has made in its two-year Strategic Campaign, which we recently finalized.

This bill also is consistent with the recommendations made by the Public Safety Task Force created by the legislature in 2017. That task force – which includes two circuit judges as well as legislators and other members – recommended that judges have more discretion to consider an individual's ability to pay when imposing financial obligations.

I think that kind of discretion in individual cases will encourage people to engage with the courts rather than give up hope as their debts grow higher and higher.

I would now like to turn it over to Nancy Cozine, our State Court Administrator, to explain the details of HB 4142.