

HB 4142 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes \$50 minimum fee added to judgments with monetary obligations for which the court is charged with collecting. Retains \$200 maximum fee. Changes authority of Chief Justice to authorize or direct courts and components of branch to waive or suspend fees. Prohibits compromise on restitution or compensatory fine in criminal money judgment but allows compromise on other portions of judgment. Takes effect 91 days sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Use of payment plans in court system
- Current practices for settling collections
- Examples of payment plans increasing access to courts and increased repayment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, Oregon courts can set up a payment plan or other collection process for a court judgment. Such plans are required to have an added fee of at least \$50, but no more than \$200. Additionally, while courts are authorized to collect and settle debts, courts are prohibited from settling judgments that contain restitution or a compensatory fine.

House Bill 4142 removes the minimum \$50 fee added to judgments that will be collected by the court and allows settling of portions of a judgment that are not restitution or compensatory fine.