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H.926

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives Cole of Hartford and Christie of Hartford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Criminal procedure; sentencing

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the Judiciary from applying interest to an unpaid fine or fee while a criminal defendant is incarcerated and for 90 days after the defendant is released, including by means of a collections agency. The bill also proposes to grant the court the ability to waive or adjust a surcharge when the defendant demonstrates an inability to pay. These processes would reflect Vermont's policy that, because the purpose of the justice system is to deter criminal behavior and encourage compliance with the law, imposing interest or surcharges in excess of what a defendant can reasonably pay undermines that purpose.

An act relating to taking account of a defendant's ability to pay for purposes of criminal fines, fees, and surcharges

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

(TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)