



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.635 – An act relating to eliminating Department of Corrections supervisory fees

As recommended by the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, Draft 1.1¹ⁱ

Bill Summary

This bill would amend 28 V.S.A. § 102 so that the Department of Corrections would no longer assess or collect supervisory fees. This bill would also absolve any current outstanding supervisory fees.

Fiscal Impact

This bill would result in a net loss of revenue to the Department of Corrections. This bill would also eliminate current outstanding debt associated with supervisory fees and associated collections. This bill would go into effect on July 1, 2027.

Background and Details

The following sections have a fiscal impact.

Section 1

This section removes the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections' responsibility to collect a monthly fee of up to \$30 from each person under the supervision of the Department who is on probation, furlough, pre-approved furlough, supervised community sentence, or parole. The Department currently charges a \$15 monthly fee, except for individuals who qualify for exemptions such as:

- individuals enrolled in Reach-Up, Social Security, Social Security Disability, and the Vermont Aged, Blind, and Disabled Program;
- individuals accepted by another state under the interstate compact;
- individuals residing in a residential treatment facility or housed in a Correctional Facility; and
- individuals on parole for life with an approved exemption request.

¹ *The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.*

Supervisory fees are collected by:

- Electronic payment portal
 - This method accepts debit and credit cards, as well as e-checks. Fees are 3% per debit and credit card transaction, or \$1.50 per e-check
- Lockbox
 - This method allows individuals to send in money orders to an offsite Post Office box. This service has some base monthly fees, as well as fees per transaction.
- Tax Setoff Program
 - Annually, the Department submits a list of accounts that are 90 days old or older, with \$45 or more in arrears, to the Department of Taxes to attempt collection through garnishment of tax returns. The primary cost of this option is the cost of mailings to individuals.

Fees and costs for all of these options are absorbed by the Department of Corrections. Any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year is used to offset Probation and Parole operational costs.

Table 1: Supervisory Fee Revenue and Operating Costs

	Revenue	Operating Costs	Net Revenue
FY25	\$303,814	\$20,479	\$283,335
FY24	\$301,502	\$12,030	\$289,472
FY23	\$360,034	\$8,698	\$351,336
FY22	\$390,238	\$7,637	\$382,601
FY21	\$355,213	\$4,969	\$350,244
FY20	\$429,685	\$3,266	\$426,418

Section 2

This section forgives all outstanding supervisory fees and eliminates all references to outstanding supervisory fees.

Table 2: Outstanding Supervisory Fees

	0-30 Days	31-60 Days	61-90 Days	91-120 Days	120 + Days	Grand Total
Total Fee	\$58,571	\$45,707	\$53,948	\$52,599	\$3,333,697	\$3,544,522

ⁱ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.