

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0795.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

HOUSE BILL 26-1232

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN MONETARY ASSESSMENTS**
102 **AGAINST A JUVENILE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Under current law, courts may not assess or collect administrative fees, costs, and surcharges in juvenile delinquency cases involving a juvenile under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court when a juvenile has been charged with or adjudicated of certain crimes. The bill adds that courts or the state is prohibited from assessing or collecting administrative fees, costs, and surcharges assessed against a juvenile or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 13, 2026

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 12, 2026

the juvenile's parents, guardian, or legal custodian when the juvenile was under 18 years old when the crime was committed and under 21 years old when the juvenile was sentenced.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) In 2021, the general assembly passed House Bill 21-1315 to
5 eliminate administrative fees and court costs assessed on juveniles, make
6 administrative fees and court costs already assessed against juveniles
7 unenforceable and uncollectable, and vacate court orders that imposed the
8 uncollectable administrative fees and court costs;

9 (b) While the intent of House Bill 21-1315 was to eliminate the
10 assessment and collection of administrative fees and court costs against
11 juveniles, courts have continued to assess administrative fees and court
12 costs against juveniles but have not collected on those assessments;

13 (c) In 2025, the general assembly passed House Bill 25-1294 to
14 eliminate the June 30, 2025, repeal date that was included in House Bill
15 21-1315 to ensure that any administrative fees and court costs assessed
16 against a juvenile would not be collected;

17 (d) Fees should not follow a person who was a child at the time
18 of an alleged offense, even if the person is over the age of eighteen at the
19 time of adjudication or if the case of the person is directly filed in district
20 court or transferred from the juvenile court to the district court; and

21 (e) The judiciary has not faced any harm from eliminating the
22 fees, and the value to juveniles and their parents or guardians has been
23 immense.

24 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that additional

1 legislation is necessary to clarify the law and ensure that administrative
2 fees and court costs are not assessed or collected against juveniles.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-11-101.6, **add** (8)
4 as follows:

5 **16-11-101.6. Collection of fines and fees - methods - charges**
6 **- judicial collection enhancement fund - creation - definition.**

7 (8) (a) A COURT SHALL NOT ASSESS A TIME PAYMENT FEE AGAINST
8 A JUVENILE OR AGAINST THE JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL
9 CUSTODIAN. A COURT OR THE STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT
10 COURT-ORDERED COSTS ASSESSED BY THE COURT ON OR AFTER JULY 6,
11 2021, THAT ARE OUTSTANDING AGAINST A JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S
12 PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

13 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (8), "JUVENILE" MEANS A PERSON
14 WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS COMMITTED.

15 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-507, **amend**
16 (6)(a) as follows:

17 **18-1.3-507. Community or useful public service -**
18 **misdemeanors - definition.**

19 (6) (a) (I) The court shall assess a fee, not to exceed one hundred
20 twenty dollars, upon every person required to perform community or
21 useful public service pursuant to section 18-1.3-501 (2), 18-18-432, or
22 42-4-1301.4. The amount of the fee must be commensurate with the costs
23 of administering the person's community or useful public service
24 program. The court may waive this fee if the court determines the
25 defendant ~~to be~~ IS indigent. In counties where the judicial department
26 operates the local useful public service program, the court shall transfer
27 each such fee to the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the fund

1 created in section 18-1.3-507.5. The court shall not impose the fee
2 described in this subsection (6)(a) on a person under the jurisdiction of
3 the juvenile court, as defined in section 19-1-103, or the person's parent,
4 guardian, or legal custodian. A COURT SHALL NOT ASSESS FEES DESCRIBED
5 IN THIS SUBSECTION (6)(a) AGAINST A JUVENILE OR AGAINST THE
6 JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN. A COURT OR THE
7 STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT A FEE IMPOSED BY THE COURT ON
8 OR AFTER JULY 6, 2021, THAT IS OUTSTANDING AGAINST A JUVENILE OR
9 THE JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

10 (II) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6)(a), "JUVENILE" MEANS A
11 PERSON WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS
12 COMMITTED.

13 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-701, **add** (7)
14 as follows:

15 **18-1.3-701. Judgment of costs and fines - definitions.**

16 (7) (a) THE COSTS ____ DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
17 SECTION SHALL NOT BE ASSESSED AGAINST A JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S
18 PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN. A COURT OR THE STATE SHALL
19 NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT ANY COSTS __ ASSESSED BY THE COURT ON OR
20 AFTER JULY 6, 2021, THAT ARE OUTSTANDING AGAINST A JUVENILE OR THE
21 JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

22 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7), "JUVENILE" MEANS A PERSON
23 WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS COMMITTED.

24 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-21-103, **add** (1.4)
25 as follows:

26 **18-21-103. Source of revenues - allocation of money - sex**
27 **offender surcharge fund - sexual exploitation of children surcharge**

1 **fund - creation - definition.**

2 (1.4) (a) A COURT SHALL NOT REQUIRE A JUVENILE OR THE
3 JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN TO PAY THE
4 SURCHARGE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. A COURT OR
5 THE STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT A COURT-ORDERED
6 SURCHARGE CHARGED TO THE JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S PARENT,
7 GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN ON OR AFTER JULY 6, 2021, THAT IS
8 OUTSTANDING AGAINST A JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S PARENT,
9 GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

10 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1.4), "JUVENILE" MEANS A
11 PERSON WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS
12 COMMITTED.

13 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-25-101, **amend**
14 (1)(b) as follows:

15 **18-25-101. Restorative justice surcharge - definitions.**

16 (1) (b) (I) The surcharge described in this section does not apply
17 to a person under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or the person's
18 parent, guardian, or legal custodian. THE SURCHARGE DESCRIBED IN THIS
19 SECTION SHALL NOT BE ASSESSED AGAINST A JUVENILE OR CHARGED TO
20 THE JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN. A COURT OR
21 THE STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT ANY SURCHARGE ASSESSED
22 BY THE COURT ON OR AFTER JULY 6, 2021, THAT IS OUTSTANDING AGAINST
23 A JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

24 (II) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b), "JUVENILE" MEANS A
25 PERSON WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS
26 COMMITTED.

27 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 21-1-103, **amend** (3)

1 as follows:

2 **21-1-103. Representation of indigent persons - definition.**

3 (3) (a) The state public defender shall make the determination of
4 indigency, subject to review by the court. When a defendant or, if
5 applicable, the defendant's parent or legal guardian requests
6 representation by a public defender, such person shall submit an
7 appropriate application, the form of which states that the application is
8 signed under oath and under the penalty of perjury and that a false
9 statement may be prosecuted as such. The applicant shall pay a
10 nonrefundable processing fee of twenty-five dollars if the court-appointed
11 counsel enters an appearance based upon the application; except that a
12 person under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as defined in section
13 19-1-103; A JUVENILE; or the person's OR JUVENILE'S parent, guardian, or
14 legal custodian, is not required to pay the processing fee. A COURT OR THE
15 STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT A PROCESSING FEE ASSESSED BY
16 THE COURT ON OR AFTER JULY 6, 2021, THAT IS OUTSTANDING AGAINST A
17 PERSON UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE JUVENILE COURT, AS DEFINED IN
18 SECTION 19-1-103; A JUVENILE; OR THE PERSON'S OR JUVENILE'S PARENT,
19 GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN. The fee is assessed at the time of
20 sentencing, if sentencing occurs, or upon other final disposition of the
21 case; except that the court may, at sentencing or other final disposition,
22 waive the fee if the court determines, based upon the financial
23 information submitted by the party being represented by the
24 court-appointed counsel, that the person does not have the financial
25 resources to pay the fee. Before the court appoints a public defender
26 based on ~~said~~ THE application, the court shall advise the defendant or, if
27 applicable, the defendant's parent or legal guardian that the application is

1 signed under oath and under the penalty of perjury. A copy of the
2 application must be sent to the prosecuting attorney for review, and, upon
3 request, the court shall hold a hearing on the issue of the eligibility for
4 appointment of the public defender's office. Processing fees collected
5 pursuant to this subsection (3) are transmitted to the state treasurer, who
6 shall credit the same to the general fund.

7 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3), "JUVENILE" MEANS A PERSON
8 WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS COMMITTED.

9 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-119, **add** (1.7)
10 as follows:

11 **24-4.1-119. Costs and surcharges levied on criminal actions**
12 **and traffic offenses - definition.**

13 (1.7)(a) A COST OR SURCHARGE LEVIED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
14 (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE ASSESSED AGAINST A JUVENILE OR
15 AGAINST THE JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN. A
16 COURT OR THE STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT COURT-LEVIED
17 COSTS OR SURCHARGES ASSESSED BY THE COURT ON OR AFTER JULY 6,
18 2021, THAT ARE OUTSTANDING AGAINST THE JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S
19 PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

20 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1.7), "JUVENILE" MEANS A
21 PERSON WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS
22 COMMITTED.

23 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.2-104, **add** (3)
24 as follows:

25 **24-4.2-104. Surcharges levied on criminal actions and traffic**
26 **offenses - definition.**

27 (3) (a) A COST OR SURCHARGE LEVIED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION

1 (1)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE ASSESSED AGAINST A JUVENILE
2 OR AGAINST THE JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.
3 A COURT OR THE STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT COURT-LEVIED
4 COSTS OR SURCHARGES ASSESSED BY THE COURT ON OR AFTER JULY 6,
5 2021, THAT ARE OUTSTANDING AGAINST THE JUVENILE OR THE JUVENILE'S
6 PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

7 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3), "JUVENILE" MEANS A PERSON
8 WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS COMMITTED.

9 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1307, **amend**
10 (10.5) as follows:

11 **42-4-1307. Penalties for traffic offenses involving alcohol and**
12 **drugs - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

13 (10.5) (a) The costs and surcharges described in subsection (10)
14 of this section do not apply to a person under the jurisdiction of the
15 juvenile court, as defined in section 19-1-103; A JUVENILE; or the person's
16 OR JUVENILE'S parent, guardian, or legal custodian. A COURT OR THE
17 STATE SHALL NOT ENFORCE OR COLLECT A COURT-LEVIED COST OR
18 SURCHARGE ASSESSED BY THE COURT ON OR AFTER JULY 6, 2021, THAT IS
19 OUTSTANDING AGAINST A PERSON UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
20 JUVENILE COURT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103; A JUVENILE; OR THE
21 PERSON'S OR JUVENILE'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN.

22 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (10.5), "JUVENILE" MEANS A
23 PERSON WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME IS
24 COMMITTED.

25 **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
26 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

- 1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 2 institutions.