



House
Legislative
Analysis
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REQUIRE PRISONERS TO PAY COURT COSTS FOR CIVIL LAWSUITS

House Bill 4583

Sponsor: Rep. Deborah Cherry

Committee: Judiciary and Civil Rights

Complete to 8-30-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4583 AS INTRODUCED 3-14-95

House Bill 4583 would amend the department of corrections act to require a prisoner to pay court costs and fees for any civil lawsuit filed by the prisoner as a plaintiff.

Any prisoner who filed a civil action would be required to pay the lesser of the court filing fee or an amount equal to the average balance in the prisoner's institutional account for the 12 months preceding the date on which the civil action was filed. If the prisoner failed to pay this amount within 21 days after the civil action had been started, the action would have to be dismissed.

When the civil action was concluded, the prisoner would be required to pay to the court the lesser of the court costs owed or the amount in the prisoner's institutional account. If, after this payment had been made, a portion of the court costs or filing fee remained unpaid, then one-half of all of the amounts subsequently added to the prisoner's institutional account would have to be paid to the court until the remaining costs and fees had been paid in full.

In the bill, the term "court costs" would specifically exclude attorney fees.

MCL 791.201-791.283

House Bill 4583 (8-30-95)