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It's the recommendation of the LSG that members **follow Chairwoman Senfornia Thompson on which amendments are added to SB 1913 on 3rd reading.** The bill is a matter of postponed business and will be brought back up at **3:00 pm.** Chairwoman Thompson and various stakeholders have agreed upon certain amendments that will improve SB 1913. Below is the original LSG analysis for SB 1913:

<p>SB 1913 By: Zaffirini / et al. SP: Thompson, Senfornia</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 1913 introduces provisions allowing judicial discretion when imposing fees or charges on indigent defendants convicted of low-level, fine-only offenses by providing several instances in which individuals have more opportunities to have associated fees or charges waived or discharged through completion of community service. Within the bill, rules and procedures regarding arrest without a warrant allows a peace officer to issue a citation containing alternatives to the full payment of any fines/costs assessed against an individual charged with a Class C misdemeanor, other than public intoxication, if that person is convicted and unable to pay the amount. The bill further outlines substantive changes relating to the prohibition of personal bond fees, court-provided notice of any fines/costs assessed in a case and alternatives to paying, the process by which a court can impose fees/costs only after making a determination that a person has sufficient financial resources to pay, prohibition of a court from issuing a <i>capias pro fine</i> for a defendant's failure to satisfy judgment and subsequent related procedures, and information a court must provide in an order requiring a defendant to perform community service to discharge fines/costs.</p> <p>The bill specifies circumstances in which a judge may not issue an arrest warrant regarding a defendant's failure to appear and the subsequent procedures for providing notice to a defendant. Furthermore, the bill specifies that a judge is prohibited from issuing a bail bond in addition or instead of a personal bond, except in certain instances within the bill. A judge is allowed to impose a fine only if they determine the defendant has sufficient financial resources, and again must consider the person's financial history within that determination.</p> <p>The bill makes similar substantive and conforming changes to statutes and procedures for justice and municipal courts as well. The bill rehouses a provision relating to completion of community service through a tutoring, work, or job skills program, as well as completing required hours at certain organizations and entities. Per the bill, the defendant is considered to have discharged no less than \$100 of fines for each 8 hours of community service performed.</p> <p>The bill also outlines provisions relating to collection contracts in which the accused must include specific information or contact the court regarding alternatives to full payment to resolve the case. The bill further specifies statutes relating to county scofflaw, in which a county assessor-collector can refuse to register a vehicle should they receive information that the vehicle owner owes outstanding fees to the county. Information provided regarding past due status for a criminal offense and subsequently owed to a county would expire after 2 years, and may not be used to refuse registration afterwards.</p> <p>The bill further provides requirements regarding an individual's cause to continue to deny driver's license renewal in the case of a dismissal for a charge due to lack of evidence. Additionally, the bill provides that a person failing to appear for a complaint or citation is required to pay an administrative fee of \$30, unless they meet certain criteria in which they are unable to pay. The Legislative Budget Board estimates an indeterminate negative fiscal impact to the state, as there would be decreased revenue from an unknown number of individuals who have their fees or costs waived under this bill. SB 1913 would end the cycle of debt for individuals who cannot afford to pay minor, compounding fines and subsequently spend time in jail. SB 1913 seeks to provide opportunities for populations with limited financial means who are disproportionately penalized by the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@texaslsg.org</p>
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