

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 2/23/2009

LRB Number	09-1420/1	Introduction Number	SB-037	Estimate Type	Original
Description Payment of judgments in traffic courts and municipal courts by installments and the suspension of operating privileges					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 37 makes several changes relating to payment of judgments in traffic cases that come before either the circuit courts or the municipal courts.

This bill requires both circuit and municipal courts to inform defendants, if they are unable to pay because of poverty, of the availability of installment payment plans. The bill also requires the courts to delay the imposition of other sanctions, including suspension of the defendant's operating privileges, to allow the defendant to pay the judgment in installments.

Circuit and municipal courts already have available the option of installment payment plans. Many defendants already participate in installment payments plans. It does not appear this bill would require additional court proceedings to implement its provisions. Use of installment payment plans may also increase the ability of courts to collect forfeitures, surcharges and court costs.

For the circuit courts, it is expected that existing court staff would be able to absorb the fiscal impact of this bill.

For the municipal courts, an accurate estimate of possible costs is not possible with existing data. For some municipal courts, installment payment plans may represent an administrative burden. It is also possible that use of these plans may result in greater collections for municipal courts.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications