

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2653**

Ordered by the House April 28  
Including House Amendments dated April 28

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Accountability for Task Force on Effective and Cost-Efficient Service Provision)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Expands collection mechanisms that Collections Unit of Department of Revenue may use to collect judgments in criminal actions assigned to unit by justice courts. **Provides that justice court assigning judgments to Collections Unit that will be subject of expanded collection mechanisms must submit report to Legislative Fiscal Office each fiscal year that describes status of justice court's liquidated and delinquent accounts, and efforts made by court to collect liquidated and delinquent accounts during previous fiscal year.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

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2 Relating to justice courts; amending ORS 156.315.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 156.315 is amended to read:

5 156.315. (1) A justice court may assign a judgment in a criminal action, as described in ORS  
6 137.118 (1) to (5), to the Collections Unit in the Department of Revenue for the following purposes:

7 (a) To determine whether refunds or other sums are owed to the debtor by the department[;] and  
8 [(b)] to deduct the amount of the debt from any refunds or other sums owed to the debtor by the  
9 department; **and**

10 **(b) To engage in any other collection activities authorized under ORS 293.250 for judgments described in subsection (4) of this section if the justice court complies with the requirements of subsection (5) of this section.**

11 (2) If the Collections Unit determines that refunds or other sums are owed to the debtor, the  
12 department shall deduct the amount of the debt from any refunds or other sums owed to the debtor  
13 by the department. After also deducting costs of its actions under this section, the department shall  
14 remit the amount deducted from refunds or other sums owed to the debtor to the justice court that  
15 assigned the judgment.

16 (3) A debtor whose account is assigned to the Department of Revenue for setoff under this section is entitled to the notice required by ORS 293.250 (3)(d) and to the opportunity for payment in  
17 ORS 293.250 (3)(c).

18 (4) **A justice court may assign a judgment in a criminal action to the Collections Unit in the Department of Revenue for the purpose of all collection activities authorized under ORS 293.250 if part of the judgment is payable to the State of Oregon.**

19 (5) **A justice court that assigns judgments to the Collections Unit in the Department of Revenue pursuant to subsection (4) of this section for the purpose of all collection activities**

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 authorized under ORS 293.250 must submit a report to the Legislative Fiscal Office not later  
2 than October 1 of each fiscal year that describes the status of the justice court's liquidated  
3 and delinquent accounts, and efforts made by the court to collect liquidated and delinquent  
4 accounts during the previous fiscal year. The report required under this subsection shall be  
5 in a form prescribed by the Legislative Fiscal Office and shall include, but not be limited to  
6 the:

7 (a) Beginning balance and total number of all liquidated and delinquent accounts of the  
8 court;

9 (b) New liquidated and delinquent accounts added during the last preceding fiscal year;

10 (c) Total collections of liquidated and delinquent accounts;

11 (d) Total amount and total number of liquidated and delinquent accounts that have been  
12 written off;

13 (e) Ending balance and total number of all liquidated and delinquent accounts; and

14 (f) Total amount of liquidated and delinquent accounts turned over to private collection  
15 agencies, and the total amount collected by those agencies.

16 (6) The Legislative Fiscal Office shall produce an annual report not later than December  
17 31 of each fiscal year on the status of liquidated and delinquent accounts of justice courts  
18 that make reports under subsection (5) of this section. The annual report shall be based on  
19 the reports submitted under subsection (5) of this section.  
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