

HOUSE BILL 1199

E4, E2, D1
SB 898/21 – JPR

2lr2219

By: **Delegate Wells**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court–Mandated Fines and Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court–Mandated
4 Fines and Fees; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study the Impact of
5 Court–Mandated Fines and Fees.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

7 That:

8 (a) There is a Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court–Mandated Fines and Fees.

9 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

10 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
11 the Senate;

12 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House;

14 (3) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender’s designee;

15 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General’s designee; and

16 (5) the following members appointed by the Governor:

17 (i) one representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts;

18 (ii) one representative of the Job Opportunities Task Force;

19 (iii) one representative of the National Fines and Fees Justice
20 Center;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition;
2 and

3 (v) one representative of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

4 (c) The Workgroup shall elect a chair from among its members.

5 (d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

6 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

7 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

8 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
9 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

10 (f) The Workgroup shall:

11 (1) study the impact of court-mandated fines and fees on low-income
12 residents and the revenue structure that relies on court-mandated fines and fees; and

13 (2) develop a plan and legislative recommendations for eliminating or
14 reducing court-mandated fines and fees.

15 (g) On or before December 31, 2022, the Workgroup shall report its plan and
16 legislative recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
17 State Government Article.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
19 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
20 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.