

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7514**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 318**

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 4, 1999  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Alcohol and drug program fees.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Susan Preble  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9867

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill allows an attorney representing a court established alcohol and drug services program to bring an action on a debt for unpaid program fees. It requires a court to award reasonable attorney's fees to the program's attorney whenever the court enters a judgment on the debt.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Beginning in the late seventies and early eighties, many counties implemented court established drug and alcohol services programs. Individuals convicted and sentenced for crimes involving drug and or alcohol are ordered to attend these programs and complete evaluation and treatment. The fee for the program cannot exceed \$300 and is to be paid by the individual receiving the service. Fees are deposited in the city or county user fee fund. This bill requires a court to award reasonable attorney's fees to the private attorney hired by the program when the court enters a judgment on the debt.

This bill will lower local expenditures because the county or city will no longer have to pay the attorney's fees when initiating an action to collect unpaid program fees.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Courts with alcohol and drug services programs.

**Information Sources:** Judge Jeffrey Thode, Porter Superior Court 6, (219) 759-2501.