

Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Bill Summary

Bill Number: H2734

Name: An Act to repeal pay-to-stay fees

Sponsor(s): Representative Christopher Worrell

Hearing Date: 15th October, 2025 at 1PM in A2

Prior History: Favorable

Summary:

The amendments and provisions in the sections of this act is meant to address the financial deductions from incarcerated individuals and the payment responsibilities for the care of delinquent youth. Here's a summary of each section:

Section 1: The amendment to Section 48A of Chapter 127 prohibits the superintendent from deducting money earned by inmates for room, board, or living-related expenses. This ensures that inmates' earnings cannot be used to cover their basic living costs.

Section 2: The Department of Correction is required to establish regulations to implement the changes made in Section 1 within 30 days of the act's passage.

Section 3: The changes to Section 48A are retroactive, meaning any deductions made from inmate earnings for room, board, or living-related expenses since January 1, 2020, must be refunded to the affected inmates.

Section 4: The amendment to Section 58 of Chapter 119 changes the rules about financial responsibilities for the care and support of delinquent youth. It removes the authority of the court to order payments from a child's property or their guardians to institutions or individuals providing care for the child.

Section 5: The amendment to Section 58 is also retroactive, voiding any payment orders issued since January 1, 2020, for delinquent youth care. Refunds must be given to those who made payments under such orders.

Section 6: The Commonwealth ensures that the costs related to the care and accommodation of incarcerated individuals will not be transferred to the individuals themselves or their families. This guarantees that families are not financially burdened by the costs of incarceration.

