

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill amends provisions relating to partial payment and reimbursement of costs from a party proceeding *in forma pauperis* (IFP). *Background:* Under the IFP statute, if the court finds that a person is financially unable to pay the fees and costs of a civil court action, the court may authorize commencement or defense of the action without prepayment of costs. Persons eligible to proceed IFP include those who: (1) are receiving public assistance, (2) represented by legal aid, or (3) have an income not greater than 125 percent of the poverty guidelines. These expenses are then paid by the state.

This bill authorizes the court to order partial payment of court fees if the person does not meet the IFP eligibility requirements but is also not able to pay all of the court costs. It also clarifies that reimbursement of costs may be ordered if the party no longer meets the IFP eligibility requirements or the party is able to pay more than the partial payment originally ordered.