

HB 1047 -- STATE DEBT OWED BY NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS

SPONSOR: Zerr

This bill changes the law regarding state debt owed by noncustodial parents. The bill requires the Department of Social Services to establish a pilot program to allow noncustodial parents to reduce the amount of state debt owed based on the number of hours of participation in the program. The amount of state debt must not be reduced by more than \$2,000. The program does not change the noncustodial parent's child support obligations or compromise any arrears owed to the custodial parent or spouse. The goals of the program must include empowering the noncustodial parents with the necessary resources to achieve gainful employment and encouraging noncustodial parents to be engaged with their children and to take financial responsibility for their children's well-being. A noncustodial parent must be removed from the program for not demonstrating good faith efforts to achieve these goals. Noncustodial parents must not be subject to prosecution for criminal nonsupport during participation in the program or for a year following completion of the program. The department must establish rules and regulations implementing the provisions of the bill within 180 days of the bill's effective date and the department must submit a report to the General Assembly one year following the establishment of rules, which must include information as specified in the bill. The provisions of the bill must expire on August 28, 2018.