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H.B. 383

## **Court Fine Amendments**

### 2025 GENERAL SESSION

#### STATE OF UTAH

# Chief Sponsor: Grant Amjad Miller

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill modifies provisions related to compensatory service and credits toward criminal
fines.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
<ul> <li>modifies the rate that is used to credit compensatory service toward payment of criminal</li> </ul>
fines;
<ul> <li>permits a judge to order that the cost of any court-ordered treatment or course be credited</li> </ul>
toward payment of criminal fines if the treatment or course is completed; and
<ul> <li>permits credit for the cost of a court-ordered treatment or course to also be issued by</li> </ul>
means of a judge's order on a petition for remittance.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
76-3-301.7, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 214
77-32b-105, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 260
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
Section 1. Section <b>76-3-301.7</b> is amended to read:
76-3-301.7 . Compensatory service Credit for cost of court-ordered treatment
or course.
(1) As used in this section, "compensatory service" means service or unpaid work
performed by a person, in lieu of the payment of a criminal fine, for:
(a) a state or local government agency;

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31		(b) an entity that is approved as a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c) of the
32		Internal Revenue Code; or
33		(c) any other entity or organization if prior approval is obtained from the court.
34	(2)	When a defendant is sentenced to pay a fine for an infraction, class C or class B
35		misdemeanor, the court shall consider allowing the defendant to complete compensatory
36		service in lieu of the payment of the fine or account receivable, exclusive of any victim
37		restitution imposed.
38	(3)	A defendant who intends to forfeit bail or who is ordered to pay a fine by the court for
39		an infraction, class C or class B misdemeanor, shall be informed by the court of the
40		opportunity to perform compensatory service in lieu of the fine or bail amount.
41	(4)	The court shall credit timely completed compensatory service reported in accordance
42		with Subsection (5) against the fine or bail amount at the rate of $[\$10]$ $\$15$ per hour and
43		shall allow the defendant a reasonable amount of time to complete the service.
44	(5)	(a) The court shall provide the defendant with instructions that inform the
45		organization:
46		(i) about the requirements in Subsection (5)(b); and
47		(ii) that making a written false statement to the court about the defendant's
48		compensatory service is punishable as a class B misdemeanor pursuant to Section
49		76-8-504.
50		(b) The defendant shall report compensatory service hours to the court in a letter that:
51		(i) is on the organization's official letterhead and includes contact information for the
52		organization's representative;
53		(ii) specifies the number of hours for which the defendant provided service;
54		(iii) contains a brief description of what the service involved; and
55		(iv) is signed by an authorized representative of the organization; or
56		(v) is in a form otherwise acceptable to the court.
57	(6)	The court may refuse to accept compensatory service:
58		(a) completed prior to the date of sentencing;
59		(b) that has been submitted to another court for credit; or
60		(c) completed at an agency or organization or is a type of service that is specifically
61		prohibited by the court.
62	(7)	In addition to any other provision of this section, a court may order that the unpaid
63		amount of the criminal accounts receivable, that is not the principal amount owed for
64		restitution, be reduced in the amount of the cost of any treatment or course if:

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65	(a) the treatment or course was ordered by the court as part of the case;
66	(b) the defendant has completed the court's requirements related to the treatment or
67	<u>course;</u>
68	(c) the defendant provides proof that the defendant completed the court's requirements
69	and paid the cost of the treatment or course; and
70	(d) the court finds that payment of an unpaid amount of a criminal accounts receivable
71	will impose manifest hardship on the defendant or the defendant's family.
72	Section 2. Section 77-32b-105 is amended to read:
73	77-32b-105 . Petition for remittance or modification of a criminal accounts
74	receivable before termination of a sentence.
75	(1) At any time before a defendant's sentence terminates, the defendant may petition the
76	sentencing court to:
77	(a) correct an error in a criminal accounts receivable;
78	(b) modify the payment schedule for the defendant's criminal accounts receivable in
79	accordance with this section if the defendant is not under the jurisdiction of the
80	board; or
81	(c) remit, in whole or in part, an unpaid amount of the defendant's criminal accounts
82	receivable that is not the principal amount owed for restitution in accordance with
83	this section.
84	(2) If a defendant files a petition under Subsection (1), and it appears to the satisfaction of
85	the sentencing court that payment of an unpaid amount of a criminal accounts receivable
86	will impose manifest hardship on the defendant, or the defendant's family, the court may:
87	(a) if the criminal accounts receivable is not delinquent or in default, remit, in whole or
88	in part, the unpaid amount of the criminal accounts receivable that is not the principal
89	amount owed for restitution; or
90	(b) regardless of whether the criminal accounts receivable is delinquent or in default:
91	(i) require the defendant to pay the criminal accounts receivable, or a specified
92	amount of the criminal accounts receivable, by a certain date;
93	(ii) modify the payment schedule for the criminal accounts receivable in accordance
94 05	with the factors described in Subsection 77-32b-103(3)(b) if the defendant has
95 06	demonstrated that the criminal accounts receivable will impose a manifest
96 07	hardship due to changed circumstances or new evidence that justifies modifying
97 08	the payment schedule; or
98	(iii)(A) allow the defendant to satisfy an unpaid amount of the criminal accounts

99	receivable, that is not the principal amount owed for restitution, with proof of
100	compensatory service completed by the defendant at a rate of credit not less
101	than [ $\$10$ ] $\$15$ for each hour of compensatory service[-] ; and
102	(B) allow the defendant to reduce the unpaid amount of the criminal accounts
103	receivable, that is not the principal amount owed for restitution, in the amount
104	of the cost of any treatment or course if:
105	(I) the treatment or course was ordered by the court as part of the case;
106	(II) the defendant has completed the court's requirements related to the
107	treatment or course; and
108	(III) the defendant provides proof that the defendant completed the court's
109	requirements and paid the cost of the treatment or course.
110	(3)(a) If a defendant is under the jurisdiction of the board, the defendant may petition the
111	board, at any time before the defendant's sentence terminates, to modify the payment
112	schedule for the defendant's criminal accounts receivable.
113	(b) If a defendant files a petition under Subsection (3)(a), the board may modify the
114	payment schedule for the criminal accounts receivable in accordance with the factors
115	described in Subsection 77-32b-103(3)(b) if the defendant has demonstrated that the
116	criminal accounts receivable will impose a manifest hardship to the defendant, or the
117	defendant's family, due to changed circumstances or new evidence that justifies
118	modifying the payment schedule.
119	Section 3. Effective Date.
120	This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.