

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3986

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to uncollectible fines, fees, and court costs in criminal actions and proceedings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Article 103.0081, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 103.0081. UNCOLLECTIBLE FINES AND FEES. (a) Any officer authorized by this chapter to collect a fine, fee, or item of cost may request the trial court in which a criminal action or proceeding was held to make a finding that a fine, fee, or item of cost imposed in the action or proceeding is uncollectible if the officer believes:

(1) the defendant is deceased;

(2) the defendant is serving a sentence for imprisonment for life or life without parole; or

(3) the fine, fee, or item of cost has been unpaid for at least 15 years.

(b) On a finding by a court that any condition described by Subsections (a)(1)-(3) is true, the court may order the officer to designate the fine, fee, or item of cost as uncollectible in the fee record. The officer shall attach a copy of the court's order to the fee record.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.