



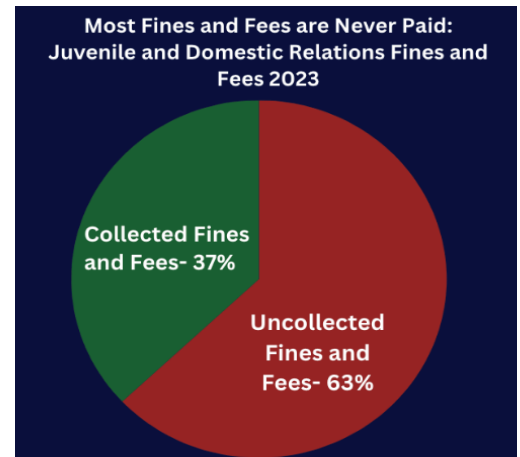
## SUPPORT HB 1263 & SB 481: Eliminate fines and fees for youth in the justice system

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*HB 1263 & SB 481 will eliminate all court fines and fees for youth in Virginia's justice system, ensuring that courts focus on interventions and resources that can be imposed fairly and evenly, regardless of economic status.*

### HB 1263 & SB 481 eliminate fines and fees for youth that are unfair, counterproductive, and a waste of resources

- **Juvenile fines and fees are unfair.** Many court fines and fees are imposed on youth and their families who are unable to pay, punishing them for poverty by adding interest charges, extended probation, and more trips to court. While Black Virginians make up just 18% of the state's population, they account for 33% of all assessed traffic and criminal fines and fees.
- **Juvenile fines and fees are counterproductive and waste prosecutorial resources.** Prosecutors are required by statute to pursue collection actions, even against children and families who can't pay them. Because of poverty, most fines and fees go unpaid (see chart), resulting in wasted prosecutorial and court time.



### HB 1263 & SB 481 will help children and families, and make the court system more fair and effective

- **HB 1263 & SB 481 will help children:** This legislation will free youth and their families from the burdens of court fines and fees they can't pay and the punishments they face because of poverty. It also saves youth from family resentment and disconnection, which increases the odds of recidivism.
- **HB 1263 & SB 481 will help families:** Most youth can't pay court fines and fees on their own, shifting the burden of these costs to their families, parents, and guardians.
- **HB 1263 & SB 481 will make the system fairer and more effective:** This legislation will require courts to treat youth, regardless of family wealth, the same and rely on the many other tools judges have to help youth get back on the right track.
- **HB 1263 & SB 481 will save court time and prosecutorial resources:** Eliminating fines and fees for youth will reduce the time that courts and prosecutors waste pursuing required collection actions against children and families who may never be able to pay.