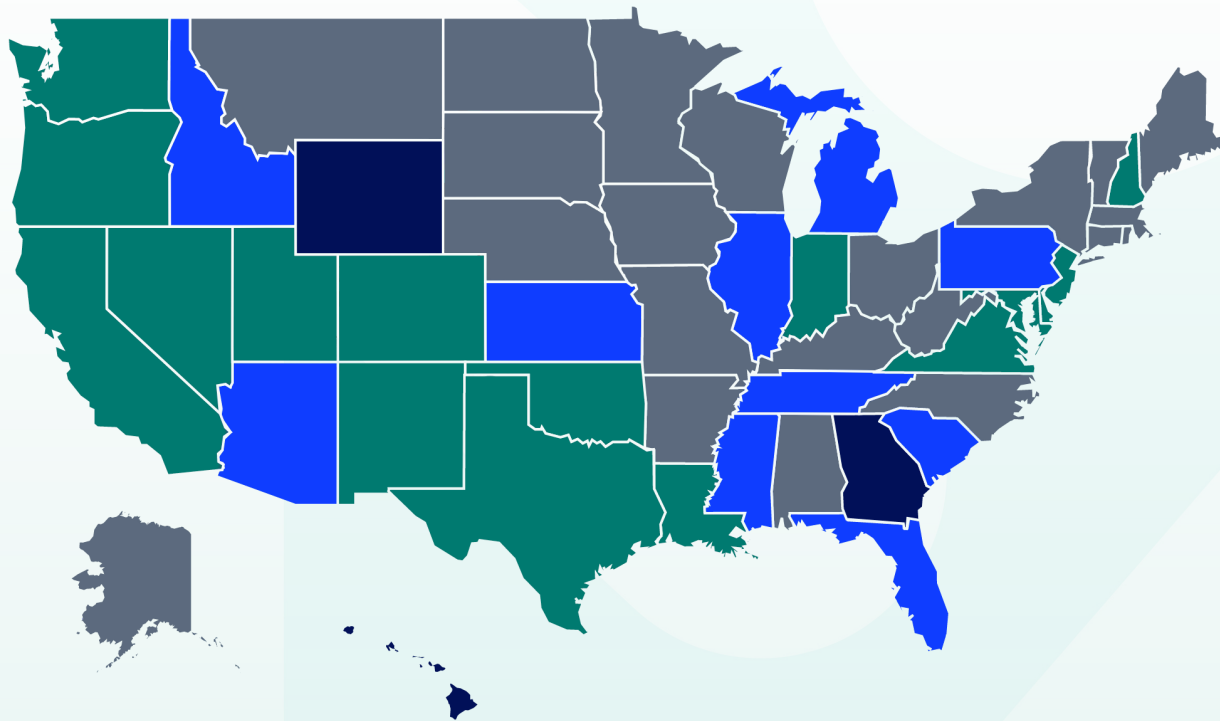





## Debt Free Justice Around the US: Progress in the Effort Against Juvenile Fees and Fines

In the last few years, a growing number of states—both red and blue—enacted reforms to curb juvenile fees and protect children in the juvenile system. Fifteen of them have passed statewide fee or fine elimination bills, as described below. Others have passed local reforms.



 **ELIMINATED**

 **LOCAL REFORM**

 **INTRODUCED LEGISLATION**





## State



## Reform

### California



In 2018, California eliminated almost all juvenile court fines and fees. In 2020, they passed a law to make these provisions retroactive, wiping out all outstanding debt.

### Colorado



In 2021, Colorado eliminated all juvenile fees and discharged all outstanding juvenile fee debt.

### Delaware



In 2022, Delaware passed HB 244, eliminating fees and fines in the juvenile justice system and makes a number of reforms to fees and fines in the adult system, including prohibiting driver's license suspension for unpaid fees and fines.

### Indiana



In 2022, Indiana passed HB 1359, eliminating juvenile court diversion fees.

### Louisiana



In 2021, Louisiana eliminated all fees for those under age 18 in both the juvenile and adult systems, including fees for care and treatment, counsel, and probation supervision.

### Maryland



In 2020, Maryland eliminated all juvenile fees and fines, including fees for legal representation, cost of care, and other court costs, and fines imposed for motor vehicle violations, possession of tobacco, and falsifying identification. The law also ended the collection of outstanding debt.





## State



## Reform

### New Mexico



In 2021, New Mexico eliminated all juvenile fees and fines, including penalties of up to \$100 for possession of marijuana and the nonrefundable “application fee” for a public defender.

### Nevada



In 2019, Nevada eliminated all juvenile fees, including fees for cost of care, court programs, drug and alcohol evaluation, and court-appointed representation.

### New Hampshire



In 2020, New Hampshire costs of services and child support imposed on parents of youth in the justice system.

### New Jersey



In 2020, New Jersey eliminated all fines and financial penalties. In 2022, the state eliminated all fees and canceled all debt from both fees and fines. In 2022, NJ passed legislation eliminating all remaining juvenile court fees and fines, and creating a presumption of indigence for youth seeking counsel. S. 3319 / A. 5507; S. 896 / A. 2386

### Oklahoma



Oklahoma passes HB 3205, eliminating many juvenile court fees including juvenile drug court program costs and fees, some cost of counsel fees, and probation fees in certain counties.

### Oregon



In 2021, Oregon eliminated fees, court costs, and fines imposed on youth in the juvenile justice system. The law also ended the collection of outstanding debt.



## State



## Reform

### Texas



In 2021, Texas eliminated a wide range of juvenile fees, including fees for court-ordered treatment, out-of-home placements, graffiti eradication, diversion, DNA testing, teen court, teen dating violence court, drug education, and alcohol awareness.

### Virginia



In 2021, Virginia eliminated juvenile fees charged to the parents of youth detained or committed to the state Department of Juvenile Justice.

### Washington



In 2015, Washington eliminated numerous juvenile diversion fees, court costs, appellate courts fees, adjudication fees, and certain fines. In 2022, the state eliminated numerous juvenile diversion fees, court costs, appellate courts fees, adjudication fees, and certain fines.