
HOUSE BILL 2759

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Casada, Franklin, Brough, Van Luven, Forner, Silver,
P. Johnson, Wynne, Horn and Moyer

Read first time 01/27/92. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to attorneys' fees in civil actions; adding new
2 sections to chapter 4.84 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that certain
5 individuals may be deterred from defending against civil lawsuits, or
6 pursuing legal action against the unreasonable actions of others,
7 because they do not possess the required financial resources to retain
8 an attorney for defending or pursuing litigation.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 4.84 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 A party representing himself or herself in a civil action is
12 entitled to attorneys' fees in every instance in which a party

1 represented by an attorney would be entitled to attorneys' fees. The
2 fees shall be calculated as provided in section 3 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 4.84 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, fees
6 payable under section 2 of this act to a party representing himself or
7 herself in a civil action are calculated as follows:

8 (a) The hourly rate payable as fees shall be based on the
9 prevailing local hourly rate charged by attorneys for their fees.

10 (b) The number of hours for which a party is compensated shall be
11 based on the number of hours that an attorney would have needed to
12 accomplish the results obtained by the party representing himself or
13 herself. In making this determination, the court shall determine the
14 kind and quality of skills which were needed to accomplish the result.

15 (2) In an action where all plaintiffs and defendants are
16 representing themselves and a party is entitled to attorneys' fees
17 under section 2 of this act, the hourly rate payable as fees is twenty-
18 five dollars per hour. The party shall be compensated for a reasonable
19 number of hours as determined by the court.