

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5142

As Passed Senate, March 10, 1997

Title: An act relating to the collection of judgments.

Brief Description: Allowing county clerks to collect civil judgments where the county is the creditor.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Loveland and Winsley).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 1/30/97, 2/11/97 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 3/10/97, 48-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5142 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Johnson, Vice Chair; Fairley, Goings, Hargrove, Haugen, Kline, Long, McCaslin, Stevens and Zarelli.

Staff: Mal Murphy (786-7412)

Background: Currently, county clerks have the ability to collect (either in-house or through an agency) the court-ordered legal financial obligations ordered pursuant to a misdemeanor or felony conviction. There is no authority for them to do so when the county is the creditor pursuant to a civil judgment.

Summary of Bill: County clerks may use the same means to collect civil judgments where the county is the creditor as are available against criminal defendants.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 24, 1997.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This is a priority of the Clerk's Association. It gives clerks the same authority to collect civil judgments as criminal obligations. There is a need to clarify the authority over cases involving juveniles.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Debbie Wilke, WA Assn. of County Officials; Pam Daniels, Snohomish County Clerk (pro).

