

5444

Sponsor(s): Senators Kline, Wojahn and Kohl-Welles

Brief Description: Eliminating the authority for attorneys' fees awards to prevailing parties in land use and shoreline management decisions appeals.

SB 5444 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Declares that the purpose of this act is to repeal the statutory authorization for the award of attorneys' fees to prevailing parties in appeals of land use and shoreline management decisions. This statute, enacted in 1995, has had a chilling effect upon the exercise of the rights of individuals, organizations, and small developers to seek judicial review of governmental decisions that may affect their neighborhoods, communities, and development proposals. It is more appropriate that the general American rule that each party bears its own attorneys' fees should apply to these cases.

Repeals RCW 4.84.370.