
SENATE BILL 5941

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Regala, Rockefeller, and Kline

Read first time 04/14/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to judicial branch funding; amending RCW 3.62.020,
2 12.40.020, and 36.18.018; reenacting and amending RCW 3.62.060 and
3 36.18.020; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 3.62.020 and 2009 c 479 s 5 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, all
8 costs, fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties assessed and collected in
9 whole or in part by district courts, except costs, fines, forfeitures
10 and penalties assessed and collected, in whole or in part, because of
11 the violation of city ordinances, shall be remitted by the clerk of the
12 district court to the county treasurer at least monthly, together with
13 a financial statement as required by the state auditor, noting the
14 information necessary for crediting of such funds as required by law.

15 (2) Except as provided in RCW 10.99.080 and this section, the
16 county treasurer shall remit thirty-two percent of the noninterest
17 money received under subsection (1) of this section except certain
18 costs to the state treasurer. "Certain costs" as used in this
19 subsection, means those costs awarded to prevailing parties in civil

1 actions under RCW 4.84.010 or 36.18.040, or those costs awarded against
2 convicted defendants in criminal actions under RCW 10.01.160,
3 10.46.190, or 36.18.040, or other similar statutes if such costs are
4 specifically designated as costs by the court and are awarded for the
5 specific reimbursement of costs incurred by the state or county in the
6 prosecution of the case, including the fees of defense counsel. With
7 the exception of funds to be transferred to the judicial stabilization
8 trust account under RCW 3.62.060(2), money remitted under this
9 subsection to the state treasurer shall be deposited in the state
10 general fund.

11 (3) The balance of the noninterest money received by the county
12 treasurer under subsection (1) of this section shall be deposited in
13 the county current expense fund. Funds deposited under this subsection
14 that are attributable to the county's portion of a surcharge imposed
15 under RCW 3.62.060(2) must be used to support local trial court and
16 court-related functions.

17 (4) All money collected for county parking infractions shall be
18 remitted by the clerk of the district court at least monthly, with the
19 information required under subsection (1) of this section, to the
20 county treasurer for deposit in the county current expense fund.

21 (5) Penalties, fines, bail forfeitures, fees, and costs may accrue
22 interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum, upon assignment to a
23 collection agency. Interest may accrue only while the case is in
24 collection status.

25 (6) Interest retained by the court on penalties, fines, bail
26 forfeitures, fees, and costs shall be split twenty-five percent to the
27 state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund, twenty-five
28 percent to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial information
29 system account as provided in RCW 2.68.020, twenty-five percent to the
30 county current expense fund, and twenty-five percent to the county
31 current expense fund to fund local courts.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 12.40.020 and 2009 c 572 s 2 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 A small claims action shall be commenced by the plaintiff filing a
35 claim, in the form prescribed by RCW 12.40.050, in the small claims
36 department. A filing fee of fourteen dollars plus any surcharge
37 authorized by RCW 7.75.035 shall be paid when the claim is filed. Any

1 party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in such
2 action shall pay to the court a filing fee of fourteen dollars plus any
3 surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035. (~~Until July 1, 2011,~~) In
4 addition to the fees required by this section, an additional surcharge
5 of ten dollars shall be charged on the filing fees required by this
6 section, of which (~~shall~~) five dollars must be remitted to the state
7 treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account and
8 five dollars must be retained by the county.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.18.018 and 2009 c 572 s 3 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) State revenue collected by county clerks under subsection (2)
12 of this section must be transmitted to the appropriate state court.
13 The administrative office of the courts shall retain fees collected
14 under subsection (3) of this section.

15 (2) For appellate review under RAP 5.1(b), two hundred fifty
16 dollars must be charged.

17 (3) For all copies and reports produced by the administrative
18 office of the courts as permitted under RCW 2.68.020 and supreme court
19 policy, a variable fee must be charged.

20 (4) (~~Until July 1, 2011,~~) In addition to the fee established
21 under subsection (2) of this section, a surcharge of thirty dollars is
22 established for appellate review. The county clerk shall transmit
23 fifteen dollars of this surcharge to the state treasurer for deposit in
24 the judicial stabilization trust account and fifteen dollars must be
25 retained by the county.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 3.62.060 and 2009 c 572 s 1 and 2009 c 372 s 1 are
27 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

28 (1) Clerks of the district courts shall collect the following fees
29 for their official services:

30 (~~(1)~~) (a) In any civil action commenced before or transferred to
31 a district court, the plaintiff shall, at the time of such commencement
32 or transfer, pay to such court a filing fee of forty-three dollars plus
33 any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035. Any party filing a
34 counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in such action shall
35 pay to the court a filing fee of forty-three dollars plus any surcharge

1 authorized by RCW 7.75.035. No party shall be compelled to pay to the
2 court any other fees or charges up to and including the rendition of
3 judgment in the action other than those listed.

4 ~~((+2))~~ (b) For issuing a writ of garnishment or other writ, or for
5 filing an attorney issued writ of garnishment, a fee of twelve dollars.

6 ~~((+3))~~ (c) For filing a supplemental proceeding a fee of twenty
7 dollars.

8 ~~((+4))~~ (d) For demanding a jury in a civil case a fee of one
9 hundred twenty-five dollars to be paid by the person demanding a jury.

10 ~~((+5))~~ (e) For preparing a transcript of a judgment a fee of
11 twenty dollars.

12 ~~((+6))~~ (f) For certifying any document on file or of record in the
13 clerk's office a fee of five dollars.

14 ~~((+7))~~ (g) At the option of the district court:

15 ~~((+a))~~ (i) For preparing a certified copy of an instrument on file
16 or of record in the clerk's office, for the first page or portion of
17 the first page, a fee of five dollars, and for each additional page or
18 portion of a page, a fee of one dollar;

19 ~~((+b))~~ (ii) For authenticating or exemplifying an instrument, a
20 fee of two dollars for each additional seal affixed;

21 ~~((+c))~~ (iii) For preparing a copy of an instrument on file or of
22 record in the clerk's office without a seal, a fee of fifty cents per
23 page;

24 ~~((+d))~~ (iv) When copying a document without a seal or file that is
25 in an electronic format, a fee of twenty-five cents per page;

26 ~~((+e))~~ (v) For copies made on a compact disc, an additional fee of
27 twenty dollars for each compact disc.

28 ~~((+8))~~ (h) For preparing the record of a case for appeal to
29 superior court a fee of forty dollars including any costs of tape
30 duplication as governed by the rules of appeal for courts of limited
31 jurisdiction (RALJ).

32 ~~((+9))~~ (i) At the option of the district court, for clerk's
33 services such as processing ex parte orders, performing historical
34 searches, compiling statistical reports, and conducting exceptional
35 record searches, a fee not to exceed twenty dollars per hour or portion
36 of an hour.

37 ~~((+10))~~ (j) For duplication of part or all of the electronic

1 recording of a proceeding ten dollars per tape or other electronic
2 storage medium.

3 ~~((+11))~~ (k) For filing any abstract of judgment or transcript of
4 judgment from a municipal court or municipal department of a district
5 court organized under the laws of this state a fee of forty-three
6 dollars.

7 ~~((+12))~~ (l) At the option of the district court, a service fee of
8 up to three dollars for the first page and one dollar for each
9 additional page for receiving faxed documents, pursuant to Washington
10 state rules of court, general rule 17.

11 ~~((+13) Until July 1, 2011,))~~ (2)(a) In addition to the fees
12 required ~~((by subsection (1) of this section, clerks of the district
13 courts shall collect a surcharge of twenty dollars on all fees required
14 by subsection (1) of this section, which shall be remitted to the state
15 treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account.
16 This surcharge is not subject to the division and remittance
17 requirements of RCW 3.62.020))~~ to be collected under this section,
18 clerks of the district courts must collect a surcharge of twenty
19 dollars on all fees required to be collected under subsection (1)(a) of
20 this section.

21 (b) Ten dollars of each surcharge collected under this subsection
22 (2) must be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial
23 stabilization trust account.

24 (c) Ten dollars of each surcharge collected under this subsection
25 (2) must be retained by the county.

26 (3) The fees or charges imposed under this section shall be allowed
27 as court costs whenever a judgment for costs is awarded.

28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 36.18.020 and 2009 c 572 s 4, 2009 c 479 s 21, and
29 2009 c 417 s 3 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

30 (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division
31 with the state under RCW 36.18.025 and with the county or regional law
32 library fund under RCW 27.24.070, except as provided in subsection (5)
33 of this section.

34 (2) Clerks of superior courts shall collect the following fees for
35 their official services:

36 (a) In addition to any other fee required by law, the party filing
37 the first or initial document in any civil action, including, but not

1 limited to an action for restitution, adoption, or change of name, and
2 any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in
3 any such civil action, shall pay, at the time the document is filed, a
4 fee of two hundred dollars except, in an unlawful detainer action under
5 chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW for which the plaintiff shall pay a case
6 initiating filing fee of forty-five dollars, or in proceedings filed
7 under RCW 28A.225.030 alleging a violation of the compulsory attendance
8 laws where the petitioner shall not pay a filing fee. The forty-five
9 dollar filing fee under this subsection for an unlawful detainer action
10 shall not include an order to show cause or any other order or judgment
11 except a default order or default judgment in an unlawful detainer
12 action.

13 (b) Any party, except a defendant in a criminal case, filing the
14 first or initial document on an appeal from a court of limited
15 jurisdiction or any party on any civil appeal, shall pay, when the
16 document is filed, a fee of two hundred dollars.

17 (c) For filing of a petition for judicial review as required under
18 RCW 34.05.514 a filing fee of two hundred dollars.

19 (d) For filing of a petition for unlawful harassment under RCW
20 10.14.040 a filing fee of fifty-three dollars.

21 (e) For filing the notice of debt due for the compensation of a
22 crime victim under RCW 7.68.120(2)(a) a fee of two hundred dollars.

23 (f) In probate proceedings, the party instituting such proceedings,
24 shall pay at the time of filing the first document therein, a fee of
25 two hundred dollars.

26 (g) For filing any petition to contest a will admitted to probate
27 or a petition to admit a will which has been rejected, or a petition
28 objecting to a written agreement or memorandum as provided in RCW
29 11.96A.220, there shall be paid a fee of two hundred dollars.

30 (h) Upon conviction or plea of guilty, upon failure to prosecute an
31 appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction as provided by law, or upon
32 affirmance of a conviction by a court of limited jurisdiction, a
33 defendant in a criminal case shall be liable for a fee of two hundred
34 dollars.

35 (i) With the exception of demands for jury hereafter made and
36 garnishments hereafter issued, civil actions and probate proceedings
37 filed prior to midnight, July 1, 1972, shall be completed and governed

1 by the fee schedule in effect as of January 1, 1972(~~(+—PROVIDED,~~
2 ~~That)~~). However, no fee shall be assessed if an order of dismissal on
3 the clerk's record be filed as provided by rule of the supreme court.

4 (3) No fee shall be collected when a petition for relinquishment of
5 parental rights is filed pursuant to RCW 26.33.080 or for forms and
6 instructional brochures provided under RCW 26.50.030.

7 (4) No fee shall be collected when an abstract of judgment is filed
8 by the county clerk of another county for the purposes of collection of
9 legal financial obligations.

10 (5) (~~Until July 1, 2011,~~) (a) In addition to the fees required
11 ~~((by this section, clerks of superior courts shall collect the~~
12 ~~surcharges required by this subsection, which shall be remitted to the~~
13 ~~state treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust~~
14 ~~account:~~

15 ~~(a) On filing fees under subsection (2)(b) of this section, a~~
16 ~~surcharge of twenty dollars; and~~

17 ~~(b) On all other filing fees required by this section except for~~
18 ~~filing fees in subsection (2)(d) and (h) of this section, a surcharge~~
19 ~~of thirty dollars)) to be collected under this section, clerks of the~~

20 superior courts must collect surcharges as provided in this subsection
21 (5) of which fifty percent must be remitted to the state treasurer for
22 deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account and fifty percent
23 must be retained by the county.

24 (b) On filing fees required to be collected under subsection (2)(b)
25 of this section, a surcharge of twenty dollars must be collected.

26 (c) On all filing fees required to be collected under this section,
27 except for fees required under subsection (2)(b), (d), and (h) of this
28 section, a surcharge of thirty dollars must be collected.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
32 July 1, 2011.

--- END ---