
SENATE BILL 6274

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Hill, Becker, Mullet, Honeyford, Bailey, Angel, Braun, and Tom

Read first time 01/20/14. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing oversight of state agency tortious
2 conduct through legislative hearings; adding a new section to chapter
3 4.92 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that one of its most
6 important roles is oversight of state agencies, particularly when it
7 comes to tortious conduct of the agency that results in harm to
8 vulnerable Washington citizens.

9 This act requires legislative hearings on tort payouts exceeding
10 one million dollars. It is the intent of this act that such hearings
11 will provide an opportunity for legislative review of the agency's
12 actions, including an examination of what changes could be made to
13 prevent such harm in the future.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 4.92 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 Whenever a payment of one million dollars or more is made from the
17 liability account under RCW 4.92.130 for a settlement or judgment for
18 the tortious conduct of the state's officers, employees, or volunteers,

1 the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the senate and house of
2 representatives shall, within twelve months of the payment, conduct a
3 joint hearing for the purposes of:

4 (1) Receiving a report from the attorney general, the office of
5 risk management, and the agency on which behalf the payment was made.
6 The report shall describe the factual events and legal context that
7 resulted in the payment; and

8 (2) Considering potential modifications to state practices and
9 policies to prevent or reduce future state liability for tortious
10 conduct.

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