
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1897

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Williams and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to disclosure of attorney invoices; and creating a
2 new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
5 clarify that no reasonable construction of chapter 42.56 RCW has ever
6 allowed attorney invoices to be withheld in their entirety by any
7 public entity in a request for documents under that chapter. It is
8 further the intent of the legislature that specific descriptions of
9 work performed be redacted only if they would reveal an attorney's
10 mental impressions, actual legal advice, theories, or opinions, or are
11 otherwise exempt under this act or other laws, with the burden upon the
12 public entity to justify each redaction and narrowly construe any
13 exception to full disclosure. The legislature intends to clarify that
14 the public's interest in open, accountable government includes an
15 accounting of any expenditure of public resources, including through
16 liability insurance, upon private legal counsel or private consultants.

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