
SENATE BILL 5251

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Fairley and Sheldon

Read first time 01/19/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to charges for copying under the public records
2 act; and amending RCW 42.56.120.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.56.120 and 2005 c 483 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records.
7 No fee shall be charged for locating public documents and making them
8 available for copying. A reasonable charge may be imposed for
9 providing copies of public records and for the use by any person of
10 agency equipment or equipment of the office of the secretary of the
11 senate or the office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives
12 to copy public records, which charges shall not exceed the amount
13 necessary to reimburse the agency, the office of the secretary of the
14 senate, or the office of the chief clerk of the house of
15 representatives for its actual costs directly incident to such copying.
16 Agency charges for photocopies shall be imposed in accordance with the
17 actual per page cost or other costs established and published by the
18 agency. In no event may an agency charge a per page cost greater than
19 the actual per page cost as established and published by the agency.

1 To the extent the agency has not determined the actual per page cost
2 for photocopies of public records, the agency may not charge in excess
3 of fifteen cents per page. An agency may require a deposit in an
4 amount not to exceed ten percent of the estimated cost of providing
5 copies for a request. If an agency makes a request available on a
6 partial or installment basis, the agency may charge for each part of
7 the request as it is provided. If an installment of a records request
8 is not claimed or reviewed, the agency is not obligated to fulfill the
9 balance of the request.

10 (2) Agencies may recover per page costs regardless of whether the
11 photocopies are taken by the requestor.

12 (3) As used in this section, "per page cost" means the cost of all
13 photocopies made to fulfill the particular request divided by the
14 number of pages.

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