

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5142

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Law & Justice, February 11, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to the collection of judgments.

**Brief Description:** Allowing county clerks to collect civil judgments where the county is the creditor.

**Sponsors:** Senators Roach, Loveland and Winsley.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Law & Justice: 1/30/97, 2/11/97 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5142 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Johnson, Vice Chair; Fairley, Goings, Hargrove, Haugen, Kline, Long, McCaslin, Stevens and Zarelli.

**Staff:** Mal Murphy (786-7412)

**Background:** Currently, county clerks have the ability to collect (either in-house or through an agency) the court-ordered legal financial obligations ordered pursuant to a misdemeanor or felony conviction. There is no authority for them to do so when the county is the creditor pursuant to a civil judgment.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** County clerks may use the same means to collect civil judgments where the county is the creditor as are available against criminal defendants.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Language clarifies that legal financial obligations of debtors in juvenile cases, including the cost of collection, may be collected by the county clerk.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 24, 1997.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This is a priority of the Clerk's Association. It gives clerks the same authority to collect civil judgments as criminal obligations. There is a need to clarify the authority over cases involving juveniles.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Debbie Wilke, WA Assoc. of County Officials; Pam Daniels, Snohomish County Clerk (pro).