
HOUSE BILL 2474

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representative Kastama

Read first time 01/13/2000. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to pro se attorneys' fees in civil actions; adding
2 a new section to chapter 4.84 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that certain
5 individuals may be deterred from defending against civil lawsuits, or
6 pursuing legal action against the unreasonable actions of others,
7 because they do not possess the required financial resources to retain
8 an attorney for defending or pursuing litigation.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 4.84 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) A party representing himself or herself in a civil action is
12 entitled to attorneys' fees in every instance in which a party
13 represented by an attorney would be entitled to attorneys' fees.

14 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, fees
15 payable to a party representing himself or herself in a civil action
16 are calculated as follows:

17 (a) The hourly rate payable as fees shall be based on the
18 prevailing local hourly rate charged by attorneys for their fees.

1 (b) The number of hours for which a party is compensated shall be
2 based on the number of hours that an attorney would have needed to
3 accomplish the results obtained by the party representing himself or
4 herself. In making this determination, the court shall determine the
5 kind and quality of skills which were needed to accomplish the result.
6 (3) In an action where all plaintiffs and defendants are
7 representing themselves and a party is entitled to attorneys' fees, the
8 hourly rate payable as fees is twenty-five dollars per hour. The party
9 shall be compensated for a reasonable number of hours as determined by
10 the court.

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