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**SENATE BILL 6162**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Schoesler, Pedersen, Dozier, Keiser, and Wellman

Read first time 01/11/24. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to a penalty for excessive fees for locating  
2 abandoned property held by a county; adding a new section to chapter  
3 63.30 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 63.30  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) It is unlawful for any person to seek or receive from any  
8 person or contract with any person or entity for any fee or  
9 compensation for locating or purporting to locate any property held  
10 by a county that are proceeds from a foreclosure or distraint sale  
11 for delinquent property taxes, assessments, or other liens, or funds  
12 that are otherwise held by a county because of a person's failure to  
13 claim funds held as reimbursement for unowed taxes, fees, or other  
14 government charges, in excess of five percent of the value thereof  
15 returned to such owner. Any person or entity violating this section  
16 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than the  
17 amount of the fee or charge the person or entity sought or received  
18 or contracted for, and not more than 10 times such amount, or  
19 imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both.

20 (2) The legislature finds that the practices covered by this  
21 section are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the

1 purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.  
2 Any violation of this section is not reasonable in relation to the  
3 development and preservation of business. It is an unfair or  
4 deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of  
5 competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act,  
6 chapter 19.86 RCW. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are  
7 cumulative and not exclusive.

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