

---

## Judiciary Committee

---

### SSB 6527

**Title:** An act relating to attorney fees.

**Brief Description:** Increasing the statutory rate for attorney fees.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Johnson, Berkey, Esser and Sheahan).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raises statutory attorney fees for civil actions from \$125 to \$200.</li></ul>
--



**Hearing Date:** 2/26/04

**Staff:** Trudes Tango Hutcheson (786-7384).

**Background:**

Generally, the prevailing party in a civil lawsuit is entitled to recover the costs of suit. "Costs" include filing and service fees, reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining reports and records, and a statutory attorney's fee of \$125.

The Legislature increased the statutory attorney's fee for cases in superior court, the court of appeals, and the supreme court in 1985 (from \$100 to \$125). Statutory attorney's fee for cases in district court was increased from \$50 to \$125 in 1993.

**Summary of Bill:**

For civil cases in district and superior court, the court of appeals, and the supreme court, the statutory attorney's fee is raised from \$125 to \$200. If a district court judgment, exclusive of costs, is over \$50, but less than \$200, the statutory attorney's fee remains \$125.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.