

6270

Sponsor(s): Senators Esser, Haugen, Sheahan and Kline

Brief Description: Revising provisions relating to attorneys' liens.

SB 6270 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Declares that the purpose of this act is to end double taxation of attorneys' fees obtained through judgments and settlements, whether paid by the client from the recovery or by the defendant pursuant to a statute or a contract. Through this legislation, Washington law clearly recognizes that attorneys have a property interest in their clients' cases so that the attorney's fee portion of an award or settlement may be taxed only once and against the attorney who actually receives the fee.

Declares that this act is curative and remedial, and intended to ensure that Washington residents do not incur double taxation on attorneys' fees received in litigation and owed to their attorneys. Thus, except for RCW 60.40.010(4), the statute is intended to apply retroactively.