
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1207

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Thai and Ryu; by request of Secretary of State)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to superior court clerk fees; amending RCW
2 36.18.020; adding a new section to chapter 36.33 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 36.40 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 10.101
4 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 2.43 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.18.020 and 2022 c 260 s 17 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division
9 with the state under RCW 36.18.025 and with the county or regional
10 law library fund under RCW 27.24.070, except as provided in
11 subsection (5) of this section.

12 (2) Clerks of superior courts shall collect the following fees
13 for their official services:

14 (a) In addition to any other fee required by law, the party
15 filing the first or initial document in any civil action, including,
16 but not limited to an action for restitution, adoption, or change of
17 name, and any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-
18 party claim in any such civil action, shall pay, at the time the
19 document is filed, a fee of \$200 except, in an unlawful detainer
20 action under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW for which the plaintiff shall
21 pay a case initiating filing fee of \$45, or in proceedings filed

1 under RCW 28A.225.030 alleging a violation of the compulsory
2 attendance laws where the petitioner shall not pay a filing fee. The
3 \$45 filing fee under this subsection for an unlawful detainer action
4 shall not include an order to show cause or any other order or
5 judgment except a default order or default judgment in an unlawful
6 detainer action.

7 (b) Any party, except a defendant in a criminal case, filing the
8 first or initial document on an appeal from a court of limited
9 jurisdiction or any party on any civil appeal, shall pay, when the
10 document is filed, a fee of \$200.

11 (c) For filing of a petition for judicial review as required
12 under RCW 34.05.514 a filing fee of \$200.

13 (d) For filing of a petition for an antiharassment protection
14 order under RCW 7.105.100 a filing fee of \$53.

15 (e) For filing the notice of debt due for the compensation of a
16 crime victim under RCW 7.68.120(2) (a) a fee of \$200.

17 (f) In probate proceedings, the party instituting such
18 proceedings, shall pay at the time of filing the first document
19 therein, a fee of \$200.

20 (g) For filing any petition to contest a will admitted to probate
21 or a petition to admit a will which has been rejected, or a petition
22 objecting to a written agreement or memorandum as provided in RCW
23 11.96A.220, there shall be paid a fee of \$200.

24 (h) Upon conviction or plea of guilty, upon failure to prosecute
25 an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction as provided by law, or
26 upon affirmance of a conviction by a court of limited jurisdiction,
27 an adult defendant in a criminal case shall be liable for a fee of
28 two hundred dollars, except this fee shall not be imposed on a
29 defendant who is indigent as defined in RCW 10.01.160(3). Upon motion
30 by the defendant, the court may waive or reduce any fee previously
31 imposed under this subsection if the court finds that the defendant
32 is indigent as defined in RCW 10.01.160(3).

33 (i) ~~((With the exception of demands for jury hereafter made and~~
34 ~~garnishments hereafter issued, civil actions and probate proceedings~~
35 ~~filed prior to midnight, July 1, 1972, shall be completed and~~
36 ~~governed by the fee schedule in effect as of January 1, 1972.~~
37 ~~However, no)) No fee shall be assessed if an order of dismissal on~~
38 the clerk's record be filed as provided by rule of the supreme court.

1 (3) No fee shall be collected when a petition for relinquishment
2 of parental rights is filed pursuant to RCW 26.33.080 or for forms
3 and instructional brochures provided under RCW 7.105.115.

4 (4) No fee shall be collected when an abstract of judgment is
5 filed by the county clerk of another county for the purposes of
6 collection of legal financial obligations.

7 (5)(a) In addition to the fees required to be collected under
8 this section, clerks of the superior courts must collect surcharges
9 as provided in this subsection (5) of which 75 percent must be
10 remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial
11 stabilization trust account and 25 percent must be retained by the
12 county.

13 (b) On filing fees required to be collected under subsection
14 (2)(b) of this section, a surcharge of \$30 must be collected.

15 (c) On all filing fees required to be collected under this
16 section, except for fees required under subsection (2)(b), (d), and
17 (h) of this section, a surcharge of \$40 must be collected.

18 (6) On filing fees required to be collected under subsection
19 (2)(a), (b), (c), (e), (f), and (g) of this section, a surcharge of
20 \$80 must be collected, with \$60 transmitted by the county treasurer
21 to the state treasurer to be deposited in the following manner: \$20
22 in the public defense support account established in section 4 of
23 this act, \$20 in the court interpreter support account established in
24 section 5 of this act, \$5 in the library-archives building account
25 established in RCW 43.07.410, and \$15 in the local government
26 archives account established in RCW 40.14.024. The remaining funds
27 must be deposited with the county treasurer and retained in a clerk's
28 administrative assistance fund to be used for the county clerk's
29 office operations.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 36.33
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 Each county shall establish a county clerk administrative
33 assistance fund, held by the county treasurer. The fund must be used
34 only for the statutory obligations of the county clerk's office. Only
35 the county clerk may authorize expenditures from the fund, and an
36 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

37 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 36.40
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 The county clerk administrative assistance fund, established
2 under section 2 of this act, is not subject to appropriation or
3 budgets by the county legislative authority.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 10.101
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The public defense support account is created in the state
7 treasury. The account shall consist of receipts from the surcharge on
8 certain filing fees, as provided in RCW 36.18.020(6). Moneys in the
9 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the
10 account may be used only to provide funding to the Washington state
11 office of public defense for the disbursement of funds to counties
12 and cities for the purpose of improving the quality of public defense
13 services, pursuant to RCW 10.101.050.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 2.43 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The court interpreter support account is created in the state
17 treasury. The account shall consist of receipts from the surcharge on
18 certain filing fees, as provided in RCW 36.18.020(6). Moneys in the
19 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the
20 account may be used only to provide funding to the administrative
21 office of the courts for the purpose of reimbursing the costs of
22 interpreter services pursuant to RCW 2.43.040.

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