
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2370

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Padden, Appelwick, Paris, Ludwig, Vance, Riley, Forner, Broback, D. Sommers, Inslee, Scott, R. Johnson, Franklin, Winsley, Mitchell and Bowman)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to registration of process servers; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 18 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 2.32 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A person who serves legal process
5 for a fee in the State of Washington shall register as a process server
6 with the clerk of the county in which the process server resides or
7 operates his or her principal place of business.

8 (2) The requirement to register under subsection (1) of this
9 section does not apply to any of the following persons:

10 (a) A sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshall, constable, or government
11 employee who is acting in the course of employment;

12 (b) An attorney or the attorney's employees, who are not serving
13 process on a fee basis;

14 (c) A person who is court appointed to serve the court's process;

- 1 (d) An employee of a person who is registered under this section;
2 (e) A person who does not receive a fee or wage for serving
3 process.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 2.32 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Each county clerk shall develop a registration process to
7 register process servers required to register under section 1 of this
8 act.

9 (2) The county clerk may collect an annual registration fee from
10 the process server not to exceed ten dollars.

11 (3) The office of the administrator for the courts shall develop a
12 registration form for the county clerks to use in the registration
13 process for the purpose of identifying and locating the registrant,
14 including the process server's name, birthdate, and social security
15 number, and the process server's business name, business address, and
16 business telephone number.

17 (4) The county clerk shall maintain a register of process servers
18 and assign a number to each registrant. Upon renewal of the
19 registration as required in section 3 of this act, the clerk shall
20 continue to assign the same registration number. A successor entity
21 composed of one or more registrants shall be permitted to transfer one
22 or more registration numbers to the new entity.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A process server required to register
24 under section 1 of this act must renew the registration within one year
25 of the date of the initial registration or when the registrant changes
26 his or her name, the name of his or her business, business address, or
27 business telephone number, whichever occurs sooner. If the renewal is
28 required because of a change in the information identifying the process

1 server, the process server must renew the registration within ten days
2 of the date the identifying information changes. The process server
3 shall pay the registration fee upon renewal.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) A process server required to
5 register under section 1 of this act shall indicate the process
6 server's registration number and the process server's county of
7 registration on any proof of service the process server signs.

8 (2) Employees of a process server required to register under
9 section 1 of this act shall indicate the employer's registration number
10 and the employer's county of registration on any proof of service the
11 registrant's employee signs.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2)
13 of this section, any person who is otherwise entitled to collect the
14 costs of service of process shall not be entitled to collect those
15 costs if the person does not use a process server who under this
16 chapter either is required to register or is exempt from the
17 registration requirement.

18 (2) The person may collect the costs of the service of process if
19 the process server registers within forty-five days after serving the
20 process.

21 (3) This section shall apply to all process served on or after
22 August 1, 1992.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 and 3 through 5 of this act
24 shall constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Nothing in this act modifies Superior
26 Court Civil Rule 4.