

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5528

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As Reported By House Committee On:  
Judiciary

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

**Brief Description:** Altering court fees.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senator Quigley).

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Judiciary, April 2, 1993, DPA.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Ludwig, Vice Chair; Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Chappell; Johanson; Locke; Long; Mastin; H. Myers; Riley; Schmidt; Scott; and Wineberry.

**Minority Report:** Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Tate.

**Staff:** Patricia Shelledy (786-7149).

**Background:** Superior Courts are authorized to collect fees for certain court services. Fees for some services are as follows:

- Filing noncourt documents and agreed probate documents: \$2
- Garnishments and writs of attachment: \$5
- Filing a will: \$2
- Preparation of passport applications: \$4
- Records search with written report: \$8 per hour
- Copies of audiotapes or videotapes of court proceedings: None specified.

**Summary of Amended Bill:** Fees for the following Superior Court services are raised or imposed as follows:

- Filing noncourt documents and agreed probate documents: \$20
- Garnishments and writs of attachment: \$20
- Filing a will: \$20
- Preparation of passport applications: Same fee as authorized by the federal government (currently \$10).
- Clerks' special services: Not to exceed \$20 per hour.
- Copies of audiotapes of court proceedings: \$10
- Copies of videotapes of court proceedings: \$25

**Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill:** A fee increase for petitions for modifications of foreign divorce orders is stricken. An erroneous reference to "motions" for modifications and fee increase is stricken. A provision expressly authorizing noncharter counties, but not charter counties, to collect fees for special services is deleted so both charter and noncharter counties may collect the fee. Counties may collect a fee not to exceed \$20 per hour for the special services, rather than \$15 per hour for the first hour.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date of Amended Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Fees for these services have not been raised for years and have not kept pace with the cost of providing the services.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Kay Anderson, Washington Association of County Clerks (pro); and Debbie Wilkie, Washington Association of County Officials (pro).