
SENATE BILL 6157

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/12/98. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to contempt of court; amending RCW 7.21.030; and
2 prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 7.21.030 and 1989 c 373 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The court may initiate a proceeding to impose a remedial
7 sanction on its own motion or on the motion of a person aggrieved by a
8 contempt of court in the proceeding to which the contempt is related.
9 Except as provided in RCW 7.21.050, the court, after notice and
10 hearing, may impose a remedial sanction authorized by this chapter.

11 (2) If the court finds that the person has failed or refused to
12 perform an act that is yet within the person's power to perform, the
13 court may find the person in contempt of court and impose one or more
14 of the following remedial sanctions:

15 (a) Imprisonment if the contempt of court is of a type defined in
16 RCW 7.21.010(1) (b) through (d). The imprisonment may extend only so
17 long as it serves a coercive purpose but in no event for more than a
18 total of one hundred eighty days for each violation. A person may not

1 be imprisoned more than once for the same or a continuing violation of
2 a court decree or order.

3 (b) A forfeiture not to exceed two thousand dollars for each day
4 the contempt of court continues.

5 (c) An order designed to ensure compliance with a prior order of
6 the court.

7 (d) Any other remedial sanction other than the sanctions specified
8 in (a) through (c) of this subsection if the court expressly finds that
9 those sanctions would be ineffectual to terminate a continuing contempt
10 of court.

11 (3) The court may, in addition to the remedial sanctions set forth
12 in subsection (2) of this section, order a person found in contempt of
13 court to pay a party for any losses suffered by the party as a result
14 of the contempt and any costs incurred in connection with the contempt
15 proceeding, including reasonable attorney's fees.

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