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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2699**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Lantz, Ahern, Benson, Crouse, Morell, Miloscia, Schindler, Dunshee and Esser)

Read first time 02/07/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to communications with government branches or  
2 agencies and self-regulatory organizations; and amending RCW 4.24.510.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 4.24.510 and 1999 c 54 s 1 are each amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 A person who in good faith communicates a complaint or information  
7 to any branch or agency of federal, state, or local government, or to  
8 any self-regulatory organization that regulates persons involved in the  
9 securities or futures business and that has been delegated authority by  
10 a federal, state, or local government agency and is subject to  
11 oversight by the delegating agency, is immune from civil liability for  
12 claims based upon the communication to the agency or organization  
13 regarding any matter reasonably of concern to that agency or  
14 organization. The party who brings a cause of action against a person  
15 for a communication that falls under this section has the burden of  
16 proving that the communication was not made in good faith by showing  
17 that the communication was made with knowledge that it is false or with  
18 reckless disregard for its truth. A person prevailing upon the defense  
19 provided for in this section (~~shall be~~) is entitled to recover costs,

1 other reasonable expenses, and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in  
2 establishing the defense.

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